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# Inside Soccer

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## SPIRIT ON VERGE OF HISTORY

by Bruce Campbell

NORTHERN Spirit's 2-1 win last Friday against Adelaide Sharks has seen them all but cement a Top Six spot in their inaugural Ericsson Cup season.

Three points against Newcastle Breakers on Friday would guarantee them that spot – with a block buster away tie against Marconi set for ANZAC Day.

This season the new guys from the silvertail area of the harbour city have captured the imaginations of soccer fans all over Australia with packed houses game after game.

Dismissed as a one-hit wonder in the early days of this season by many within the game, Graham Arnold's team of many talents gradually settled down to a pattern of play which has been good enough to keep the fans coming back from more.

On that opening day of the season they set a new Ericsson Cup attendance record – and they could be lining west Sydney neighbours Marconi up for their own crack at the record books.

Should it come down to the wire then it is likely that Marconi Stadium will be bursting full to the rafters for the last game of the season.

The last time a capacity crowd turned up at Bossley Park was for an Australia v Brazil youth international.

Despite crowd limitations because of the introduction of an all-seater format Bossley Park should hold an 11,000 crowd comfortably.

And with both Marconi and Spirit involved right up until the death it is almost guaranteed that that the game will be a sell-out.

And one other place in the record books is also up for grabs – the first time that all four Sydney clubs have made the play-offs.

With both South Melbourne and Perth Glory already there Adelaide City is the only other realistic contender.

Whatever happens and whoever makes it this is a season which has been set alight by the men from north of the harbour bridge.

At Marconi this Saturday the Stallions take on Adelaide City while South Melbourne play Canberra at home and their rival for top spot, Sydney United, travels to Gippsland.



Robbie Slater: the 'Bulldog' has had a re-birth in his career since joining Northern Spirit and is a huge favourite at North Sydney Oval

Photo by Denis Ivaneza Inner Visions

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# Farina is staying

by Bruce Campbell

**MARCONI** player/coach Frank Farina is staying at the Bossley Park club — and that's official.

Despite constant rumours that the club was unhappy with his performance rate — and a steady sniping from the Sydney press — it seems that the reverse is true.

"You couldn't call our season a disaster," says club official Ross Musso.

"Maybe it hasn't been our best but it is far from a disaster."

"In January we virtually fielded a youth grade side for our league matches because of injuries and suspensions."

"But it seems that some people don't take that into account when they are speculating about Frank Farina's position with this club."

"Frank is under contract to us and it is as simple as that."

"Tony Labbozzetta (club chairman) has always believed in honouring contract so why should we be different now?"

In its 22 year history

in the NSL Marconi has only ever sacked a coach once during the season — Doug Collins in 1983.

Collins was replaced after a disastrous start and was replaced by captain Tony Henderson.

Even in the disastrous season of 1994/95 Andrea Icardi saw his contract out when the club finished fourth from bottom — its second worst all-time placing.

Marconi is one of only three clubs to have continually played in the NSL since its inception in 1977.

The others are Adelaide City and South Melbourne.

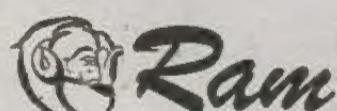
Frank Farina is the club's 14th coach since 1977, the others were Rale Rasic (1977-78), Les Scheinflug (79-80 and 84-86), Raul Blanco (81 — resigned), Luciano Nesti (81), Dom Kapetanovic (82), Doug Collins (83), Tony Henderson (83), Roberto Vieri (87), Berti Mariani (88-92), Frank Arok (92-94), Andrea Icardi (94/95), Manfred Schaefer (95-97) and Zoran Matic (97/98).

(97/98).

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# FIFA boss denies bribes claims

FIFA President Sepp Blatter is adamant that all the accusations levelled against him in a book by British writer David A. Yallop "are false", he told Swiss weekly *L'Illustration* last week.

Of claims made in the book *"How they stole the game"*, Blatter denies having bought votes for his election as head of world football's governing body.

Blatter said: "I did not suggest money to anyone during my campaign."

Asked if he promised money to small federations, Blatter replied: "Yes, but it is public. It's a question of a letter in the month of May which went out everywhere including to the press."

Asked about presents to FIFA members during the

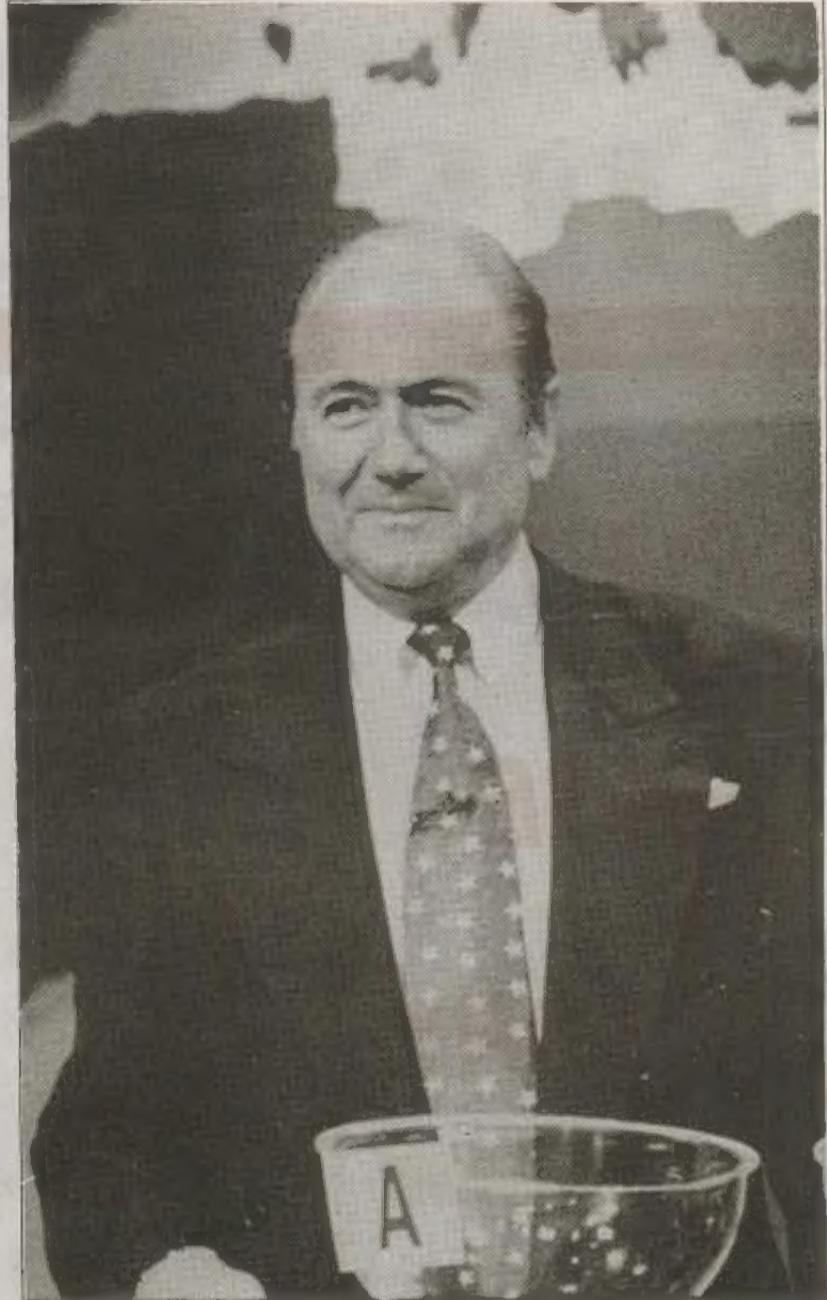
meeting to decide the hosts of the 2002 World Cup, he said: "They (Japan and South Korea) are organising the World Cup together. Nobody was hurt."

Yallop's book was published in Germany and Austria last October but was banned in Switzerland at Blatter's request.

He claims 16 different instances of defamation in the book.

In his book, 62-year-old Yallop claimed 20 important FIFA members accepted \$A80,000 each in brown envelopes to vote for Swiss native Blatter on June 8 1998 in Paris, instead of his Swedish rival Lennart Johansson, the UEFA president.

Blatter won the vote by 111 votes to 80.



Sepp Blatter: he denies that he bribed his way into the FIFA presidential chair

# Stadium game gets green light

By Bruce Campbell and John Salvado

A NEW Australian soccer attendance record is almost certain to be set for the June 12 match between the Socceroos and a World All-Stars XI after agreement was reached to hold the match at Stadium Australia.

The Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust, which controls the Sydney Football Stadium, had threatened to seek an injunction to prevent Soccer Australia (SA) from selecting a team for the match to mark the

official opening of the new main Olympic Stadium.

The trust signed a 15-year agreement with SA in 1994 giving it the right to host any matches played by Australia's national teams in New South Wales. But the parties reached an out-of-court settlement last week allowing the upcoming match to go ahead at the new 110,000-seat stadium at Homebush Bay, rather than the 42,000-capacity SFS.

With a sell-out crowd expected to watch the Socceroos take on some of the world's best players, the Australian soccer attendance record of 85,000 set for the World Cup qualifier between Australia and Iran in 1997 is set to be smashed.

"There were a number of disputes but it's all been settled amicably," SA solicitor George Pashalis said. "There's no impediment, the game's going ahead and everyone's happy."

Pashalis said he also expected the Sydney

match between Australia and Brazil later this year would also take place at Stadium Australia "and the reason for that is the crowd numbers".

SFS Trust chief executive Noel Neate said details of the out-of-court agreement would not be made public, but he was happy the matter had been settled without the parties going to court.

An official crowd of 104,583 turned up at Stadium Australia for the first major sporting event there, the National Rugby League double-

header on March 6. Soccer Australia has been plagued by financial problems over the last three years.

Without the expected revenue generated from the match the short term viability of the ruling boy would have been in serious jeopardy.

Twice in the last year the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation has injected funds, believed to be in the six figures each time, to keep SA afloat.

Officials from Soccer Australia were not available to make any comment on this story.

## Crocker stable after being evacuated

AUSTRALIAN football official Jamie Crocker was in a stable condition in hospital in Switzerland after suffering a heart problem during the World Youth Cup.

FIFA officials said

Crocker, director of administration for the Australian team in Nigeria for the FIFA Championship, collapsed at the team's hotel in Ibadan. He was revived by a doctor of the Nigerian

organising committee and taken to hospital in Lagos, an hour from Ibadan and flown to hospital in Switzerland, where FIFA is based, the sports body said.

"The evacuation proce-

dure ... proved its reliability and worth" when Crocker became ill and was flown out, FIFA said in a statement.

FIFA last month said it had arranged for any official or player seriously

injured during the three week contest to be flown home for treatment.

"Doctors in Switzerland described the condition of the patient who is suffering from a heart condition as stable."

# Viduka helps Celtic reach Cup Final

By Phil Gordon  
in Glasgow, Scotland

MARK Viduka repaid a slice of his disputed transfer fee on Saturday when his goal in a 2-0 win over Dundee United steered Celtic into the Scottish Cup Final.

The Australian striker, whose controversial three million pounds (\$4.82 million) move from Croatia Zagreb is still being studied by FIFA, put Celtic out of reach of United with a fortuitous 38th minute finish at Ibrox Stadium.

Celtic, who have won the competition a record 30 times, will now play in the final on May 29 at Hampden Park.

Celtic had only a Reggie Blinder goal - a fine left foot shot after 30 minutes - to show for their pressure until Viduka, playing despite being ill, struck nine minutes later.

He beat Dundee United's offside trap and fired a right foot shot from 16 metres which was cruelly deflected past goalkeeper Sieb Dijkstra.

Viduka did not appear for



the second half, explaining he was suffering from a virus which had affected his breathing.

Celtic withstood Dundee United's fightback to allow their supporters in the 43,491 crowd to celebrate their first final appearance in four years.

"We are happy to be there, but the final is still six weeks away and now it is important that we remain focussed on

the league title again," said coach Jozef Venglos.

Celtic lag leaders Rangers by six points.

Celtic's opponent in the final is arch rivals Glasgow Rangers - complete with Viduka's fellow Aussies Tony Vidmar and Craig Moore who recently returned to the club after an unhappy spell at Crystal Palace.

## Doctor Jo to stay on in Paradise

FORMER Soccer coach Jozef Venglos ended speculation about his future at Celtic last week by saying he planned to stay on as coach of the reigning Scottish champion next season.

But Venglos, who coached the former Czechoslovakia to the quarter-finals of the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, is expected to take on a role as a technical advisor in the long term once his successor has been found.

"Celtic has every confidence in Jozef Venglos and greatly appreciates his valuable contribution to the club," Celtic's acting chief executive Allan MacDonald said.

"This is reflected in his deci-

sion to remain as head coach for next season and to build upon his good efforts to date.

He has also pledged himself to work with the new management team to help identify and transfer responsibilities to his successor as seamlessly as possible.

"In the longer term the club envisages Jozef playing a continuing role for the club as European Technical Advisor."

There had been recent speculation in the media that the Slovak trainer would leave the club at the end of the season.

But Venglos added in the statement: "I am pleased to clarify my position.

"Our plans for next season

are already moving forward."

Despite signing Aussie striker Mark Viduka Celtic will likely finish a distant second to arch rivals Rangers in the Scottish Premier League this season.

In recent weeks Celtic has shown improved fortunes on the pitch resulting in a swag of goals.

Viduka has also settled since his turbulent on-again off-again transfer from Croatia Zagreb.

In the 1960s Venglos was prominent in Australian soccer and was even tipped as a possible successor to Eddie Thomson in the national team hot spot before Terry Venables was appointed.

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# Bruce Campbell

## The Game of Life

SOCER IS LIFE: or at least that's what the T shirt says.

I don't know if I am as passionate about the game as I once was.

I know that I am certainly a lot more cynical these days, but the game very definitely plays an important part in our day to day life down in Corinal on the sunny Wollongong coast.

But, despite what Malcolm Fraser said (from the security of his squillion dollar estate) life doesn't have to be hard - not even in soccer.

I've just put down the Soccer 21 report and it says something about unification of the game.

**UNIFICATION** - we can't even get going in New South Wales never mind uniting the country.

Other than the Amateurs and the Federation at each other's throats there is the little case of Wollongong White Eagles taking action against the Illawarra Soccer Association.

It is all just a bit too much for me.

To cap it all off were the dozens of people who wished me 'happy Easter'.

How can you have a happy Easter, didn't Jesus die on the cross for our sins?

Maybe He has given up on the saviour of the human race but surely we can get the round ball game going a bit easier.

Soccer isn't supposed to be a 'hard' life, after all.

IN THE NEXT few weeks you'll start to read about end-of-the season awards in your favourite soccer paper.

So before the official ones get going I thought I'd stir things up a wee bit and give my own awards;

### Best Player

No doubt - Kresimir Marusic. If the Northern Spirit ace doesn't win that one at the official awards night by a million miles then there is something wrong somewhere.

I'm not saying that I would like to coach him, or even play alongside him, because he can do some of the weirdest things in a game - but he is a match winner.

He is also great value for the punters and he gets my vote.

### Best Coach

If you can get that one for only half a season's work then Tommy Sermanni would have to be the easy winner there, too.

He has performed minor miracles at the Cosmos and maybe it is no coincidence that he has a player named Jesus in his side. (wonder what HE thought of Easter).

David Mitchell would definitely be up there too - but I reckon that he might just be named the new Socceroo coach so that will be reward enough.

### Best Team

South Melbourne.

Any team that can send their own home fans home happy every second week, bar one, for two years

### 'Scoras' Canberra ACT

(For the record, I had a thirty minute conversation with Janene Mar, who is the AWSA press officer, in which I asked, amongst other things, for biographical detail so that we could run a weekly strip on a different Matilda on the run-up to the World Cup.

Inside Soccer has received many calls about our recent lack of coverage of the women's game - I suggest that you re-direct them in future to Canberra. - Ed.)

### Mitch The Man

FROM right back to the beginning of Sir Arthur George's reign up until the present, Soccer Australia has excelled no end

isn't doing a bad job.

That's the serious ones taken care of - and watch out next week for YOUR chance to vote in our reader's poll, so let's have a stab at some light-hearted humour, or my miserable attempt at it.

### Best Mascot

The Wollongong WOLF..... dead set serious, he is great.

If you haven't seen him doing the 'half time dash' then it is one of the best pieces of non-field action in the sport.

Honest, Juliet, I am being serious.

### Worst Mascot

The Sydney United PUMA - and only because I think he is dead.

Come on guys, give him the kiss of life - watch out for the 'dog

breath', though.

### Worst Press Releases

Perth Glory, Adelaide Sharks, Brisbane Strikers and Gippsland Falcons - because they don't do ANY.

At least they don't send them here.

### Even Worse Press Releases

THE AWSA's - they arrive consistently six hours AFTER we have gone to print, yet somehow mysteriously appear in another paper on time.

Down on the beach we've given up bothering, if they want to have coloured pictures of their babes instead of decent copy we reckon that they have got a serious problem.

### Best Hair Do

It's an oldie but a goodie - Francis Awaritefe is still showing the kids a thing or two with his curly top.

I wonder what he thinks about the

win too many games either.

After all if you are a professional football player and you have to scrounge meals off the fans because you can't afford to live then the club which doesn't pay its bills has to be brought into question.

Maybe it IS about time, though, that coaches formed their own branch of the union to prevent other coaches from stepping into vacancy until players and the departing coach have received full financial settlement.

It isn't my place to point a finger but surely Mr Makris is guilty of bringing the game into disrepute.

He's lucky he didn't have John Markovski at his club - the local Macca franchisee would have burnt the club down if he had been deprived of a customer like that through a little thing like non-payment of wages - for nine weeks.

I wonder what YOU think?

## Your WRITE

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Letters on any football related subject are welcome but should reach us by Friday morning prior to print to reach the next deadline.

began coaching Sydney Olympic and then moved on to bigger and better things I was not surprised.

The only surprise was that he has succeeded so well as a coach in such adverse conditions.

'Mitch' is the man to coach the Socceroos.

He has the ability, the

experience as a player both locally and overseas at the highest level, a wide local knowledge of the game and the passion for it.

Surely even the 'brains trust' at SA cannot deny him the job much longer.

I know they may all get a giant collective migraine by making a rare

correct decision. They should think of it as a learning experience which might become a habit.

Robert Melor  
Bondi NSW

**United Can Win League**  
CORRECT - go United.  
A Simunic  
Brisbane QLD

## Women's Soccer

MANY thanks for the full page coverage of women's soccer in the 23 March issue of Inside Soccer.

What a disaster - my comments in regards to B Starr are one mistake OK, but two and she should be out of the team (in reference to Australia's performance in the Algarve Cup).

The team needs many changes; waiting in the wings are many players who are just as good if not better - which is not hard considering the lack of effort of most of the team.

One big blue had already caused the downfall of Canberra Eclipse in the Grand Final of the Summer Cup because the

local players were not permitted to train with Eclipse for two weeks.

The grounds were that the Matildas needed the players.

So the Algarve Cup resulted in not one but two disasters.

Your editorial comments were merited and I hope that they strike home but I doubt it.

Where there is no sense there is no feeling.

In reference to your requests for media material the powers that be are certainly complaining about lack of media coverage.

Heather Reid is a hard worker who has received little or not thanks - it is just a pity she is not on the committee of the AWSA.

## 'Scoras' Canberra ACT

(For the record, I had a thirty minute conversation with Janene Mar, who is the AWSA press officer, in which I asked, amongst other things, for biographical detail so that we could run a weekly strip on a different Matilda on the run-up to the World Cup.

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## Mitch The Man

FROM right back to the beginning of Sir Arthur George's reign up until the present, Soccer Australia has excelled no end

in making one bad decision after another.

If there was a prize for the Oz sports body that made the most bad decisions over time then SA would be a Grand Finalist.

The latest episode concerns the appointment of a new Socceroo coach in the wake of the Oz Tel disaster.

Despite the undeniable fact that English coaches have a disastrous track record in the job Roy Hodgson has been made an offer.

Thankfully he has declined and purely by accident the 'brains trust' at SA may be forced to appoint a local coach who is actually suitable for the job.

When David Mitchel

press agency writer who always leads off with 'veteran Marconi striker'.

### Press Box Legend

Has to be ABSW's John Economo (there, I've gone and said the dreaded 'A' word ...). Guaranteed to arrive late and spend the next ten minutes grilling everyone about who did what to whom he also has the ability to light up just in front of the No Smoking sign in the Stalions box!

As I said, a living legend - and some of the nicknames he has given the players over the years are brilliant; Zoom Top, Criminal, Bomber, Noddy, Duck Arse, Chelsea - and they were all from one team....

### Best and Worse NSL Programmes

Perth Glory's get the thumbs up,

Spirit's gets the thumbs down.

The trouble with the Sydney one

is that I can't READ it - all those

bloody coloured pages....

### Highlight of the Season

GETTING Inside Soccer back on the road although the World Youth Cup may yet top even that, here's hoping.

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## Queue forming to host World Club Cup

NINE countries have expressed interest in hosting the first club world championship, FIFA, world soccer's governing body, said on the weekend.

Mexico, Turkey, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Tahiti, China and the United States have all indicated a desire to stage the new competition scheduled

for January 5-14 next year.

The host is expected to be selected before the end of May. The tournament will feature eight of the world's top clubs, one from each of the six confederations along with the a team from the host country and the winner of the Europe-South America Cup (Toyota Cup).

### KNIGHTS PLAN CHANGES

by Bert van Bedaf

THE Melbourne Knights are in the process of one of the biggest overhauls in the club's history. Not only are they working towards privatisation, they're also contemplating changing their name to Melbourne United and playing at Olympic Park next season.

Knights general manager Damien Phillips confirmed the club was contemplating a name change and move from their Sunshine stadium for next season. The name change will retain the "Melbourne" part, but it is uncertain whether the club will still be calling itself the "Knights" next season. Phillips said, "United had been discussed". The 'Melbourne' part will stay. We want to be the club for all of Melbourne in the future," he said, while putting up a strong pitch for changing venues as well.

"We are seriously looking at it and we'd be crazy if we didn't. The stadium in Sunshine has outgrown its usage. It is difficult to attract more supporters and sponsors," Phillips said.

"We have to start thinking bigger than only what we can do in this area in this stadium, if we want to attract major sponsors. Most of them live on the other side and like to take their business associates to something central in the city and not to this location which is out of the way. We're looking at Olympic Park or maybe the Docklands (Colonial) stadium. But that doesn't mean the Knights stadium won't be used any more. We'll use it for training purposes and no doubt it will continue to be used as a soccer venue, probably for Victorian Premier League games," he said.

By Brian Homewood

BRAZIL may well be applying to host the 2006 World Cup, but it appears to be a well-kept secret, with no evidence of a single car sticker, advertising board, or t-shirt bearing the words "Brazil 2006" anywhere to be seen.

The bid, being organised by the Brazilian soccer federation (CBF) is so low-key as to be virtually invisible.

CBF president Ricardo Teixeira, who last month won the backing of the Brazilian government for the bid, has based his case on an argument that can be summarised as "it's our turn."

"In 2006, we will have gone 56 years without it. England held it in 1966,

"Germany in 1974. Plus we have won it four times, so we have every right to stage it."

But in the modern age of multi-billion dollar soccer, that is unlikely to be enough.

If World Cup hosts were chosen on a purely romantic basis, Brazil would win the race to stage the 2006 tournament hands down.

The four-times world

champions have the best record on the field, the most artistic players in the world, the most vibrant supporters and some of the world's biggest stadiums.

A packed Brazilian soccer ground, with the huge banners, fireworks and drum-beating supporters, has a unique atmosphere.

The country comes to a standstill during the World Cup, when even the stock markets close for national team matches.

Sadly for Brazil, soccer's governing body FIFA demands infrastructure and slick organisation rather than romance from would-be World Cup hosts and in these departments Brazil appears to fall well short.

"Our football itself is good but the organisation is not," said newspaper columnist Cesar Seabra.

"Maybe in 2022, when the current crop of directors have been put out to grass."

The country's soccer stadiums, though huge, are generally in a shabby state, the most deplorable being the famous Maracana in Rio de Janeiro.

Former FIFA head,

Brazilian Joao Havelange, this week gave his backing to his home nation's bid but talking about the stadium which boasts a world record attendance of 200,000: "I think it should be blown up."

"When the stadium is full, you can't get near it, you can't park your car."

"When you leave, you are subject to violence."

"The past is good but if it is no use any more, then build another one."

Although Brazil has a well developed network of air transport, roads are potholed, passenger rail services do not exist and making a telephone is an often arduous exercise that requires limitless patience.

Worse still, Brazilian domestic soccer is notable for its bizarre organisation that hardly bodes well for a World Cup bid.

Last year's Brazilian championship was dogged by last minute changes to fixtures and on one occasion, a match between Palmeiras and Vasco da Gama was called off at one hour's notice.

This followed a court order banning Vasco

from playing twice within the space of less than 66 hours.

There have been at least three cases — one in the North Eastern city of Recife and two in Rio de Janeiro — in which hundreds of fans with tickets have been locked out of grounds.

On each occasion, police and soccer authorities have blamed each other and nobody has worried about giving the fans their money back.

Brazil's bid is being organised by the Brazilian Football Confederation which has been roundly criticised for the way it runs the national team and for putting commercial interests above footballing matters.

There was an outcry last year when Brazil abandoned a pre-World Cup training session early to attend an event organised by team sponsors Nike.

There was also anger over the schedule of pre-World Cup friendlies, against Spanish club side Athletic Bilbao and European minnows Andorra.

The CBF did not have an Internet site at the start of the year and is cursed in media circles both for its treatment of journalists at Brazil's training sessions at the last World Cup and by all those who had to queue for four hours in an alley that reeked of urine to obtain their credentials for last year's Brazil-Argentine friendly in Rio de Janeiro.

The country's previous attempts to host major events -- the 1994 World Cup, the 2000 and 2004 Olympics (when Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro respectively applied) -- have all ended in humiliation, falling at the first hurdle.

In fact, Brasilia's Olympic bid was withdrawn before the first vote at the request of the International Olympic Committee.

Perhaps aware of this, the CBF's campaign has been remarkably low-key. As far as all the other rival bidders are concerned, they hope it stays that way.

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Muscat cast in scoring mould

KEVIN Muscat is playing with a specially-made fibre-glass cast on his right-hand.

The Wolverhampton Aussie recently had surgery to heal a broken bone in his hand.

The former Sunshine and South Melbourne defender has scored four goals for his English side this season.

### Moore back at Ibrox

CRAIG Moore celebrated his return to Glasgow Rangers by playing a full game and scoring in the 57th minute — unfortunately for him, Ranger's lost 3-1 away to St. Johnstone.

Moore has now scored four goals this season (three with Crystal Palace) and has signed a 4-year deal with the current Premier League front-runners.

### Andy On For Pana

ANDY Vlahos made his Greek league debut, coming off the bench in second-half injury-time as Panathinaikos won 2-0 away to Panionios.

Panathinaikos is currently in third position on the League Ladder

# Carlton's long and rocky road

THE extent of Carlton's second year blues has raised eyebrows across the country. Going so far in the inaugural season, and promising much more the second time round, Carlton started off well but the end has been a disappointment.

Having lost Marusic, Trajkovski, Markovski and Grella in the off-season, the club's reinforcements failed to make a decisive impact.

Alex Moreira came from the Victorian Premier League, an unproven striker who nevertheless was an instant hit in pre-season, scoring a ton of goals along the way, but disappointing in his consistency.

Andrew Marth, after a great career with the Melbourne Knights, was expected to resume his midfield dominance with Lubo Lapsansky, but for various reasons the old combination failed to ignite.

Carlton's only undoubtedly successes from the transfer market this season were Joe Tricarico and Archie Thompson, both bought in after pre-season had commenced, and both from Gippsland.

After strong performances in the Tynan-Eyre Cup for the Falcons and his continual refusal to sign a contract, Tricarico

had alerted clubs to both his ability and availability, whilst Thompson would make an immediate impact.

Pre-season saw the club embark on an adventurous 4:4:2 formation, almost unheard of in Australia, and given the excellence of Colosimo as a sweeper in the old 5:3:2 formation, caused some fans (and players) to scratch their heads.

4:4:2, to be effective, requires good and/or fast players on the flanks and in early days Carlton played with Bresciano and Vlahos switching flanks to great effect.

Colosimo scored a hat-trick on opening day against Wollongong to prove once and for all the wisdom of playing that formation with an offensively-minded sweeper.

The club's new formation and success was breathtaking to behold, quick passes/dribbles out of defence to the midfield,

greatly.

Joe Simunic transferred from the Knights, but left almost immediately for SV Hamburg. Alan Hunter, er, Alan who?

Kresimir Marusic took half the season to recover fully from injury, but he came good in last season and Dean Anastasiadis, all coming from the lower and medium end of the transfer market.

Lapsansky equally effective at attacking and defending, packing a long-range shot, and setting an excellent example to younger players.

Inside Soccer's David Arnold takes an in-depth look at the fortunes of a club for which the current season is a bitter disappointment



Bresciano and Colosimo, the future of the club in more ways than one, both started off brilliantly but faded as the season wore on.

The injury and indiscipline problems have necessitated the forced introduction of youngsters, some not ready yet, into first-team football.

David Grbac and Ace Stojevski have been the stand-outs, whilst Steve Martin and Tony Oularis have impressed in patches.

Despite the defensive worries, neither David Della Rocca nor Serdar Pir have managed to dislodge any of the senior men from their respective positions.

It has been a long and trying season for Carlton, and for many, the end cannot come too soon.

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**Manchester City was once one of England's elite. 1999 sees it home for Danny Tiatto and Danny Allsop**

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*Life in English football isn't all mega bucks, flash cars and dolly birds — sometimes even the fish and chips are lousy .....*



# THE TWO DANNYS

**MANCHESTER** City, once part of the glory of the two top sides from Manchester but now languishing in the English 2nd Division ... but not for long if the Aussie connection of Danny Tiatto (inset) and Danny Allsop (pictured above and right) has anything to do with it.

The Danny Connection has played a regular part in Manchester City's efforts to climb back to the top, and both boys are looking long term with the northern English Club which is on course for promotion to the First Division.

"At the moment I'm contracted for another season but they're looking to sign me for a further three years," says Allsop.

"I've done well and they want to keep me and they've got onto it straight away."

"Next year I could speak to other clubs and they want to stop me from doing that."

"Basically (manager) Joe Royle says it's a reward because I've done so well. Naturally I'm really happy because this is what I've been working toward."

"When you know you have only next year to go you want more security, especially so far away from home. So it's what I've been working toward all

season, and it's paid off."

It's also Danny Tiatto's first season with the Club, and he has another two to go — but life this season hasn't been smooth sailing for the former Stoke City, Salernitana and Melbourne Knights midfielder.

"This season has been a bit of an up and down one for me," admits the 25-year-old.

"At the start I was involved with everything, but I injured my heel just before the season kicked off and that put me out for a month and it was almost like I had to do my pre-season all over again."

"When I finally came back from that injury I started on the bench, moved on to starting about 5-6 games, then did something silly and got sent off."

"It was a bit of a scuffle, the referee thought I threw a punch but I didn't and I'm still claiming innocence."

The club went to the tribunal and tried to ap-

peal but without video evidence of the game, Tiatto was given a three week lay-off, and had to fight once again to make the first team, coming back for Manchester

City's FA Cup fixture against Derby.

"I got back into the team via the bench, got my chance again and did well, scoring in the 1-1 draw," he says.

"Then I played in the return game which we unfortunately lost 1-0 and put us out of the FA Cup."

"Still, it was good experience for me playing against a Premier League team."

Tiatto, in fact, could have been a regular in the Premier League, with Aston Villa interested in the former Olyroo at the same time that Manchester City manager Joe Royle was talking to him.

"I was doing really well at Stoke City," recalls the Socceroo. "Joe Royle saw me toward the end of that season when Man City played Stoke and he approached me, said he was interested and wanted me to sign with him. At the same time Aston Villa was also interested, so I came back to Australia and talked to both clubs."

"It was a bit of a scuffle, the referee thought I threw a punch but I didn't and I'm still claiming innocence."

The club went to the

club that's going places.

"I haven't looked back."

Those sentiments are echoed by Allsop who is clearly enjoying the big match atmosphere that Maine Road provides, despite the fact that the team is playing in a lower division.

"There were over 31,000 at the game against Wigan on Saturday and we haven't had fewer than 28,000 at our home games. The fans are starting to get excited because of the promotion chance," says the 20-year-old. "We've lost just one game in 15 since just before Christmas and I can tell you the supporters are getting a bit excited."

"It's getting to the point now where people see me out and about, know who I am, and come up to talk to me about the club."

That winning streak is excellent for Manchester City and Allsop, but not quite so good for the personal fortunes of Tiatto,

which put me back a bit, because the team was into its winning streak," he says.

"The manager wasn't going to change a winning formula, so the last month has seen me on the bench, getting on here and there, and I'm just going to have to wait it out and get my chance again — and not get sent off."

Tiatto actually has a huge deterrent against picking up another suspension ... and it's not necessarily Joe Royle.

"Yeah, my dad's said he's going to be on the next flight over and he's going to kick my a#\\$ the next time I get one, so I'd better take it easy — the prospect of Tiatto senior

(better?) halves, in Allsop's case fiancee Vanessa, and in Tiatto's instance, girlfriend Kori ... but that doesn't necessarily cure all homesick attributes, particularly when it comes to their stomachs.

"Yeah, the boys give us the obvious jokes usually based around kangaroos, and everyday we get the obligatory 'g'day mate', 'how's it going mate', but it's not too bad and it's good having Danny T there with me," says Allsop.

"It's just the usual anti-Aussie banter."

"But they don't bring cricket up very often — only when they win, which isn't very often, so we usually give them stick about the cricket and the weather and how pathetic it is," adds Tiatto.

The boys also live in the same apartment block, and are saved from homesickness by their

"My mother's cooking," adds Tiatto.

"When I was in Italy it was no problem, because obviously they're renowned for food."

"But unfortunately, if I go to an Italian restaurant in Manchester, the chef will be Scottish and it doesn't really work, it just hasn't got the same taste."

*"It was a bit of a scuffle, the referee thought I threw a punch but I didn't and I'm still claiming innocence."*

peal but without video evidence of the game, Tiatto was given a three week lay-off, and had to fight once again to make the first team, coming back for Manchester

wanted me to trial, Manchester City offered a contract, so I opted for the contract to put some certainty in my life. And quite frankly, it's a great

who, via another misfortune, is finding himself back to square one.

"Unfortunately I got suspended a second time for two yellow cards, and I missed two games,

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**It's the subject which has everyone talking just now.....**

# The squad and the coaches to take Australia to the next World Cup

from Daniel Pennisi

IN THE press recently there has been talk on who is going to lead our country to the 2002 World Cup in Asia but there has been little discussion on which players should be involved in that campaign.

I would like to open the case and present a selection of players and ask for my fellow *Inside Soccer* readers and followers to comment and present their view on who they believe should be there.

There is a large list of possibles, any of whom you may be familiar with or possibly never heard of;

**GOALKEEPERS: (11)**

Mark Bosnich (ENG), John Filan (ENG), Paul Henderson (Northern Spirit), Frank Juric (GER), Zeljko Kalac (HOL), Vince Matassa (ENG), Steve Mautone (ENG), Jason Petkovic (Ad City), Edward Scalzi (ITA), Mark Schwarzer (ENG), Frank Talia (ENG).

**DEFENDERS: (20)**

Tansel Baser (TUR), Andrew Bernal (ENG), Paul Bilokapic (Spirit), Milan

Blagojevic (Olympic), Simon Colosimo (Carlton), Fausto De Amicis (South Melbourne), Mehmet Durakovic (Olympic), Hayden Foxe (JAP), Glenn Gwynne (Brisbane), Steve Horvat (ENG), George Kulscar (ENG), Dominic Longo (Marconi), Andrew Marth (Carlton), Craig Moore (SCO), Kevin Muscat (ENG), Tony Popovic (JAP), Alex Tobin (Adelaide), Robert Trajkovski (Perth), Jason Van Bleek (ENG), Tony Vidmar (SCO).

**MIDFIELDERS: (32)**

Ross Aloisi (BEL), Joe Bacak (HOL), Matthew Bingley (Spirit), Alvin Ceccoli (GRE), Steve Corica (ENG), Jason Culina (Olympic), Shaun Edwards (ENG), Brett Emerton (Olympic), Robbie Enes (Spirit), Craig Foster (ENG), Vince Grella (ITA), Troy Halpin (Perth), Brad Hassell (Adelaide), Doug Hodgson (ENG), Lorenz Kindtner (BEL), Stuart Lovell (SCO), Brad Maloney (Marconi), Kresimir Marusic (Spirit), Gabriel Mendez (Spirit), Ante Moric (Sydney

United), Paul Okon (ITA), Nick Rizzo (ENG), Mark Silic (CRO), Josip Skoko (CRO), Robbie Slater (Spirit), Ufuk Talay (TUR), Danny Tiatto (ENG), Paul Trimboli (South), Vasco Trpccevski (POR), Aurelio Vidmar (JAP), Kasey Wehrman (Brisbane), Ned Zelic (GER).

**FORWARDS: (16)**

John Aloisi (ENG), Paul Agostino (GER), Zlatko Arambasic (BEL), Vlado Bozinovski (BEL), Pablo Cardozo (Olympic), Harry Kewell (ENG), John Markovski (Perth), Ante Milicic (HOL), Alex Moreira (Carlton), Damien Mori (Adelaide), Oliver Podeljak (CRO), Kosta Salapasis (POR), Joe Spiteri (BEL), Carl Veart (Adelaide), Mark Viduka (SCO), David Zdrilic (GER).

**TOTAL PLAYERS (79)**

The difficult part is reducing this to a squad of 25-30. I couldn't, so I chose 38; Mark Bosnich, Steve Horvat, Stan Lazaridis, Hayden Foxe, Simon Colosimo, Ned Zelic, Craig Moore, Paul Okon, Harry Kewell, Mark

Viduka, Aurelio Vidmar, Tony Vidmar, Tony Popovic, Craig Foster, John Aloisi, Kresimir Marusic, Danny Tiatto, Paul Trimboli, Ante Milicic, John Filan, Josip Skoko, Nick Rizzo, Brad Maloney, David Zdrilic, Kevin Muscat, Glenn Gwynne, Lorenz Kindtner, Vince Grella, Ufuk Talay, Kasey Wehrman, Paul Agostino, Jason Culina, Fausto De Amicis, Mark Schwarzer, Alex Moreira, Zeljko Kalac, George Kulscar, Brett Emerton.

I believe that in this 38 there is definitely enough talent to take us through to the World Cup in 2002 and be competitive.

It has an exceptional combination of youth and experience, ball-players and distributors, hard men and thinkers.

Three quarters of the team is based overseas and there is the cream of home-based players included.

All that is missing is a coach.

**LOCAL CANDIDATES:** Frank Farina, Nick Theodorakopoulos, Ang Postecoglou, Branko Culina,

John Kosmina, Eddie Krncevic, Zoran Matic, Bernd Stange, David Mitchell and Tom Sermanni.

Out of these, I feel that with the exception of Bernd Stange, none have the international coaching experience to coach Australia by themselves.

The best option if viable is to employ a quality overseas coach who is committed to the job with two Australian assistants.

A coach of the quality of Roy Hodgson who was prepared to implement a specific infrastructure is crucial to the further development of Australian soccer at all levels.

The head coach would also be a technical coaching director responsible for the coaching of top local coaches.

His assistants David Mitchell and either Branko Culina, Eddie Krncevic or Nick Theodorakopoulos could be responsible for the Joeys, Young Socceroos and the Olyroos with Raul Blanco maintained as scout/adviser.

**EXAMPLE:** Head Coach: Roy Hodgson

Olympic Coach: Ang Postecoglou or Nick Theodorakopoulos Youth Coach: David Mitchell

Joey's Coach: Eddie Krncevic or Branko Culina

Technical Director: Roy Hodgson Assistant & Scout: Raul Blanco

Postecoglou is selected for his ability to maintain a cohesive and competitive unit in succession, whilst playing disciplined, entertaining football. He has also proved a successful developer of talent.

Theodidakopoulos obtains a position for his tactical abilities and intelligent displays.

He has worked to improve his techniques overseas and will continue to do so.

He has also developed players.

David Mitchell takes on a position as Under 20s coach because of his undisputed success working with a depleted

side and discovering new talent. He has done this consistently and has vast overseas experiences competing at high levels under the guidance of astute coaches.

Krnicevic's ability to instil professionalism and develop quality youth has been illustrated in his first two seasons at Carlton.

Whilst not experiencing the same success in '99 he still has managed to unearth new stars and provide them with a chance confidently.

He also has an abundance of quality time overseas.

Branko Culina has demonstrated his ability to produce talent during his successful reign at Sydney United.

However, he was unable to reciprocate this under pressure at Canberra.

In saying that, he is an intelligent coach, well-respected and a good player developer and team coach.

Inside Soccer invites other similar reader articles and also comment on the above piece through Your Write.

## Bugsy's View with Marconi skipper Brad Maloney

Our game against Melbourne Knights turned out to be a memorable occasion for Marconi, and not just because of the 2-0 scoreline in our favour.

The reason was the Marconi starting line up for that game was unchanged from the week before.

Normally that is nothing to shout about, but given our well documented trouble with injuries, it certainly was something of a novelty down Bossley Park way.

You have to go way back to round 3, to see the last time Marconi were able to put an unchanged side on the park.

Hopefully with most of our injuries behind us, we'll reap the rewards of being able to field a settled side in the final few critical matches.

AND what an exciting run in to the end of season this year has turned out to be.

At the time of going to press it looks like four teams are battling it out for three remaining Top Six spots, and just to add a touch of spice to the proceedings, some of those teams will meet each other in the final three rounds.

Marconi have to play both Adelaide City and Northern Spirit in the final two rounds of the competition, in what are in effect 'six pointers', and on the last day of the season, Sydney Olympic travel to



season.

I know at Marconi we all look forward to the trip to Perth, and our ANZAC Day clash with the Spirit has all the hallmarks of being a game to remember.

I READ an interesting article in a Sydney newspaper recently that suggested that the 'experience factor' at Marconi could be the deciding factor in our finals quest.

We certainly have an experienced squad, and that experience could well turn out to be what gives us the winning edge.

Experience will also be sure to play a big part once the play offs get under way, in deciding who eventually makes the Grand Final, with those teams who have been there before having a decided advantage.

It may be an often used cliche, but there really is no substitute for experience.

There are too many 'ifs and buts' as the league stands at the moment to even try and predict who will be there and who will not be there come Grand Final time, but one thing I can say is that if Marconi do make the Top Six then we are capable of going all the way.

That Sydney journalist's comments may well turn out to be very prophetic indeed.

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# "I'M NOT A DIVER"

by Alan Clark  
in Melbourne



OLYROO and South Melbourne star Goran Lozanovski angrily disputed claims that he is a diver after receiving successive bookings for falls in the penalty-area in South's last two home games against Perth Glory and Brisbane Strikers.

"I thought they were a bit harsh," said Lozanovski.

"I got booked on Wednesday (against Perth) for diving, but I got tackled from behind.

"I thought if they were behind they couldn't tackle."

"(Against Strikers) I wasn't even trying to dive, I was trying to keep my feet."

"I went to get up and (referee Eddie Lennie) was running at me."

"I thought it was a penalty before that on Steve Panopoulos."

"I just tried to keep playing on, I slipped and

I got up.

"I wasn't claiming a penalty.

"I got straight up and he booked me.

"I was a bit upset about that but what can you

inside, or just outside the box which sent him flying, but the ball rolled to Lozanovski who then took it to the bye-line.

In doing so he slipped, but immediately attempted to continue the chase.

In the earlier game against Perth, Lozanovski's tumble seemed less innocent.

Lozanovski is otherwise enjoying his season with South, despite missing some of it though injury.

He believes he's coming into form at the right time.

says. "I suppose my fitness hasn't been the best, but I'm trying to work on that every day.

"Hopefully by the time the play-offs come around I'll be feeling a lot better."

As one of the League's most exciting flair players, Lozanovski attracts equal measures of praise from his own support and opprobrium from the opposition's, but he puts this down as just a normal part of the game.

"They get stuck into me at away games, but you expect that," Lozanovski

*"The crowd get stuck into me at away games, but you expect that – you play against the crowd, I think it's a great thing."*

do?"

Against Brisbane, Panopoulos was forced to hurdle a challenge either

"My game hasn't changed much - I'm there and I'm doing my job the way I'm meant to be," he

said. "I like that.

"You play against the crowd, I think it's a great thing."



Goran Lozanovski in action for Australia against Japan. The South Melbourne ace has reacted angrily to claims that he is a diver.

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## Kosmina looking for Brisbane balance

By Michael Crutcher

BRISBANE Strikers coach John Kosmina will seek a solution to a worrying trend of "soft goals" that have destroyed his team's finals hopes.

Kosmina again accused his players of letting in easy goals during a 3-0 loss to leader South Melbourne which stunted the Strikers' desperate drive to the Top Six.

That loss left the 1997 champion in eighth place, four points adrift of sixth-placed Adelaide City, but with a favourable draw for their last two matches against Adelaide Sharks (away) and Newcastle (home).

"They're games we should win and we just have to win them," Kosmina said.

"Our performance has not been a problem but we're just letting soft goals in and we're going to have to address that.

"I don't want to give away too much detail but maybe we need to change our focus."

Kosmina concedes he is also has concerns at the other end of the ground, with the Strikers being outscored 22-9 in their last eight matches.

"We're making opportunities

but we're not getting the ball in the back of the net," Kosmina said.

"Even against South Melbourne when we were down 2-0, we could have been level 10 minutes later.

"But we don't seem to have problems at home this season."

Experienced player Sean Cranney is likely to miss the rest of the season with an Achilles injury.

But Kosmina seems to think that he has the talent within his squad to rebuild the Strikers into a major force in the league.

After winning the Championship in 1997 they slumped baldly the following year.

At the end of that coach Frank Farina went south to Marconi in an acrimonious bust up with the club.

Kosmina has managed to get



the Queensland roadshow back on track but their results have been, for the large part, inconsistent.

"The players that we've got in the squad are more than capable," Kosmina said.

"We can balance the back quite easily, the midfield worked well last weekend and we have to say the team is playing well."

# "Just give it to Mitch now": Watson

by Bruce Campbell

IN HIS playing days Joe Watson was a tricky customer. Noted for his ability to feint with the ball during a lengthy spell with champion side Sydney City he picked up the media-friendly nickname of 'Jinky Joe'.

But that doesn't mean that he is anything other than a straight shooter when it comes to voicing his opinions.

The Socceroo coaching vacancy is a subject on which the diminutive Scot has a straight shooting answer.

"Just give it to Mitch," he says. "After what he has achieved Soccer Australia should be giving him the job on a platter."

"I don't know why they are mucking about, they should be begging him to take the job after what he has achieved at Sydney United."

Watson has just returned from Britain

where he attended the funeral of his father.

While it was obviously an unhappy time on a personal note he nevertheless noted the passion in the game surrounding the appointment of Kevin Keegan as England national coach.

"Keegan is the people's choice," says Watson.

"That is why it has been such a popular move - and it has got everybody talking about the game again.

"Mitch is the people's choice in Australian soccer so why do they not just listen to what the public wants and act now?"

Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella has repeated his stance that his board will not make an appointment until the second half of the year - after the Socceroos have played the FIFA World XI.

That would see Australia go into the highest

profile game in our century-plus football history in the hands of a caretaker, Raul Blanco.

"It is unbelievable," adds Jinky Joe. "I think that it is high time for a change. I don't have any problem with those who are in charge just now but you need to have fresh blood every now and again, it is time now for a change. David Mitchell enjoys the admiration and respect of everyone involved in the game, from fans right through to players and administrators.

"He is the logical choice but they should act now and stop mucking about."

Watson doesn't believe that an assistant's role would be acceptable to Mitchell who has turned around the fortunes of cash-strapped Sydney United and who may yet finish this season with a cupboard of silverware at Edensor Park.

Mitchell has almost single handedly piloted the club to its pole position while off the park it slid to near bankruptcy.

Sydney United's woe

ful mismanagement of its financial position was only arrested after an administrator was called in at a time when it could not even guarantee its day to day existence in the league.

Should Sydney United still exist next season then United will owe a huge personal debt to the brilliant coach who is reported to have been owed in excess of \$60,000.

The hot tip is that Mitchell will be involved with the Socceroo plans in one way or another, with some mention of an assistant coach's role.

But Joe Watson says that would not be a good way forward.

"That would be a bit insulting to him," says Watson. "Mitch is good enough in his own right to be able to handle a job like that. Everyone I have spoken to agrees."

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# It's all in the cut says North Sydney Oval curator Peter Devlin

by Ben Coonan

THE North Sydney Oval complex has long been known as one of the premier sporting facilities in Australia.

Players crave the opportunity to walk out onto the hallowed turf which has served many great sporting sides over the years.

Such teams as the North Sydney Bears, New South Wales Blues cricket and the New South Wales Waratahs were regulars at the complex.

But now the Northern Spirit reside at the classical ground and curator of North Sydney Oval, Peter Devlin, said he was all for the idea of a National Soccer League team at his ground.

"I thought it was very exciting, great for the North Shore, and great for North Sydney Oval to have another side in a national competition," said Devlin.

One of the catches of having both a soccer season and cricket season at



Graham Arnold: likes his grass cut short

the same time posed Devlin with a challenge, but one he accepted with enthusiasm.

"I thought the pitch removal system was a very exciting idea," he said.

"It would be great to further the development of that portable wicket situation.

"We could now have

no cricket wickets out in the middle of the oval, and it would be transferred from a cricket field one week to a soccer field the next."

When coach Graham Arnold was announced as coach of the Spirit, he assumed some control of how the ground would play.

"When he first got the

coaching role here at the Spirit, Graham wanted the field to play like a European pitch," said Devlin, "which is on the fast side, and creates a fast game and one that is attractive to the spectators."

In their inaugural year the Spirit have attracted an average of 15,000 to their home fixtures, and the North Sydney Oval atmosphere may well play apart in this.

If so the atmosphere has seen them draw the biggest league crowd for a non-finals match in the history of Australian Soccer - 18,965.

"I think it's the Friday night situation which attracts a lot of people to the area," adds Devlin.

"It's an oval that under lights looks picturesque.

"It's got a quality surface where players get the opportunity to display their skills."

The quality surface which Devlin mentions is couch based cut at 25mm, which is very similar to European standards.

And many players and coaches have voiced their opinion about the ground in a positive manner.

"So far the feedback has all been very positive," he says.

"They have found that the pitch is faster than what they are used to.

"It's different for them because they are used to playing a different type of surface, as a lot of Australian grounds tend to be cut a lot higher, which slows the pace of the ball down.

"But once they've got used to the pace they find it great.

"And they also find the atmosphere here lifts their own side 20 to 30 percent."

It has been rumoured in the media that the Northern Spirit will play their playoff matches at the Sydney Football Stadium to accommodate crowd sizes. But Devlin believes that North Sydney Oval will be adequate.

"From what I know, the Top Six matches will be played at North Sydney Oval," says the curator.

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FOR MANY years in Sydney one player has continued to ply his trade without many of the plaudits he deserves. He plays his game with a class and style that is indicative of his parentage. With an Italian father and an Argentinian mother he plays the game with a technical aspect but with an added flair. He also plays in midfield and this season has seen his role in a match broaden.

by Stuart Jones

WALTER Ardone was born in Buenos Aires Argentina in 1972 but when he was just four his family moved to Australia, where he now calls home.

His first club as a youngster in Sydney was Canley Heights Cobras before moving to Parramatta Melita.

Ardone played all his youth football at Melita under the likes of Raul Blanco and Rale Rasic.

He even made the first team and played a handful of times before the club were relegated back to the state league.

Ardone was always a midfielder although he played a handful of games at right back under David Ratcliffe at Sydney Olympic.

He then played in Malaysia, two hours from Johor, for a team called Malacca.

"Malaysia was very different," says Ardone.

"They had a totally different playing style.

"A lot of the players were smaller and sharper on the ball, however, foreign players dominated physically and won a lot of possession.

"These days things are different with the introduction of foreign coaches."

In the end though he made a return to the NSL with Sydney Olympic and played three seasons there before a season at Heidelberg.

"I followed the new coach (Mike Urukalo) down there, who had just returned from Malaysia himself," he says.

"However things did not go too well and in the end the club were out of the NSL so I made a return to Olympic."

Walter Ardone would play another three seasons there before moving to Sydney United this season.

"I have some great memories from Olympic," he recalls.

"I made a lot of great friends there."

"The supporters were great because they always made sure good football was being played, win draw or lose."

"Of course they ex-

# I WANT TO WIN A CHAMPIONSHIP MEDAL AT UNITED



## Midfield ace Walter Ardone lifts the lid of life at Sydney United - and Olympic

pected us to win and there is a lot of pressure on the players.

"I had a lot of different coaches at Olympic and each brought his own expectations to the table.

"I think tactically Peter Raskopoulos was the best but when he came in the committee wanted him to keep the players that were there.

"Players inside the team knew he had wanted to get rid of them and they cold shoulderered him a bit.

"In the end he could not introduce his own plans to the club and that was unfortunate for he had a three year plan set to revitalise the club totally.

"The best season I had there was the one we played at Leichhardt Oval, the whole atmosphere was fantastic.

"We had some great players at Olympic like Kimon Taliadoros, Nick Meredith, Milan Blagojevic and Chris Kalantzis.

"Overall looking back I am sure we could have and should have done better.

"Milan Blagojevic was the most professional player I ever played alongside.

"He went to the Gym three times a week, he had a perfect diet with no fat, and everything he did was professional.

"I learnt a lot from him and it has helped me in my own game.

"Things were sometimes hard, like under Geoff Harcombe.

"His training techniques were really efficient.

"I had not done stuff like that since I was 16 under Mick Hickman.

"I think we made a backwards step and that was reflected on the park.

"Under David Mitchell things had been different.

"After the first training session you realised he had some great ideas and if he wants to be he could make a great coach.

"Fortunately for me I have had a chance to experience that again."

Ardone got that chance because after three years it was time to move on.

"I moved for several reasons," he tells.

"The first was I thought it was time for a change, the second was financially I was on a part time contract at Olympic and to become full time they were not upping the money by much.

"Finally it was made by the fact that Mitch came in for me and I have a lot of faith in him.

"Saying that I had spent three weeks I pre-season with Branko Culina and then went to training at United.

"After the first session we had no showers and I walked away thinking I had made a huge mistake.

"However, Mitch assured me that even if it did not look much right away we would make the Top Six and things would be okay.

"I had faith in him and what he said panned out to be true.

"Mitch is a great coach.

"He gives us instructions before each match but we still have the freedom to choose for ourselves when we are on the ball.

"In training we do a lot of work on what he expects us to do in different plays.

"He encourages every player to use the ball, from Richard Plesa right through to Nathan Day.

"It means you can express yourself much more.

"At Olympic you are always under pressure to win so it is more a case of

when you have the ball you try and keep it rather than take a risk of losing it.

"The squad was also huge so if you did not do the right thing by the coach you could always lose your spot to someone else for a month.

"I think that is why we always crumbled in the finals, the pressure became too much.

"At United you do not have that.

"We also have the luxury of being able to play a number of styles.

"We can play one-two and break up play through the middle.

"We have some great wide men to open play up, whilst Richard Plesa can pump 40 metre balls and land them wherever he wants.

"It gives us a great chance in every match whatever the circumstances we are faced with."

"What of the football life itself?

"I really enjoy the lifestyle," Ardone answers.

"I think since the introduction of pay TV players have become more recognisable and the sport is more popular.

"I enjoy reading a

lot from philosophy through to self help and all manner of stuff.

"I enjoy hanging around Bondi Beach and going to the movies.

"I also enjoy doing promotions for my sponsor ASICS.

"My parents are opening up a new Cafe so I am going to help out with that.

"I studied PE for a while but have never finished it.

"I like escaping from football."

Ardone has played in Malaysia but has also experienced the game in many other parts of the world.

"I was in Spain for eight months and trialed at different clubs," he says.

"I also had approaches from Chile but once I came home from Spain I did not really want to go overseas and play.

"I had lost the desire to do that although the money would have been good.

"This season an opportunity to play in China came up from out of the blue.

"One of the sponsors of a club over there saw me play and told the club to

send a scout out.

"I got an offer to go and trial and ended up in the same team as Alistair Edwards.

"I had been a bit reticent but was told if you played near Hong Kong the lifestyle was okay.

"In the end we ended up at a club two hours flight from Hong Kong.

"The whole two weeks I was there it snowed and the whole atmosphere of the place was like an army camp.

"In the end I came back here, I was really doing it only for the money, and the pay packets were astronomical, but there was only so much you could take and anyway I am happy in Australia.

"At the end of the season I am playing for two months in Norway before coming back for next season in the NSL."

As for the future Walter Ardone will continue to play until he loses the love he has for the game.

"If I stopped loving the game next week then I would finish then and there," says the United player.

"That is why I can not put a time figure on how long I will play.

"I am looking forward to Norway and playing overseas once more.

"I am off contract at the end of the year so we will have to see what happens from there but obviously I would love to continue to play in Sydney.

"The biggest ambition I have is to win something though.

"I am yet to win a championship and I do not want to be a player who misses out on the biggest prize in Australian football."

Walter Ardone certainly has played some free football this season, but, as evidenced by his recent performance in Canberra, if it gets physical he will not back down.

And if the National Soccer League can continue to hold onto players of Walter Ardone's undoubted quality then the standard in Australia's highest level of soccer will not be as bad as some pundits are currently predicting.

## WORLD YOUTH CUP - NIGERIA '99

# FIFA concerned at penalty box theatrics

ONE minute, Saudi Arabia's Faisal Al Obaili was writhing around on the pitch in apparent agony, clutching his leg, grimacing and screaming.

Less than a minute later, having been carried off the pitch on a stretcher, he was running around the field as if nothing had happened to him.

The incident in the 2-0 defeat by Ireland was hardly isolated.

The first week of the world youth championship has shown that professional soccer players pick up their bad habits at a depressingly early age.

The tournament has witnessed a flurry of diving and faking injury from 17, 18 and 19-year-olds, prompting FIFA president Sepp Blatter to reiterate the promise that he will clamp down on what he once described as "cheating."

Blatter admitted this

week that he was amazed at the way players recover from seemingly serious injury in seconds.

He also pointed out that diving to win free kicks now happens in all corners of the field and not just in the opposition's penalty area.

"One minute it appears that the player is dying on the field. But when he gets to the edge of the field to be treated, he jumps up again. Maybe there is something magical in the African soil," said Blatter.

Brazil's players, who come from a country where the problem is endemic, were diving all over the pitch during their game with Spain, which lost 2-0.

In their case, the example has come from the top.

On more than one occasion, Ronaldo, Brazil's biggest idol, has won penalties for the national team with theatrical tumbles, the most outrageous

coming in a friendly away to South Korea two years ago.

Brazil's neighbours Argentina, whose national team has often been criticised in the past for over-use of gamesmanship, have also been misbehaving.

They had two players booked for diving in a 1-0 defeat by Ghana on Wednesday.

Blatter insisted that the new law which comes into effect on July 1 will enshrine the principle that divers receive an automatic yellow card.

But he said that referees do not need to wait until then to begin punishing offenders.

"Perhaps some referees have not been given these instructions yet," pondered Blatter, hinting he was not satisfied at the present situation.

"But they should be applying this rule now because we are in a FIFA competition."

Sometimes, however,

justice takes its own course.

During Argentina's game with Ghana, Ger-

man Rivarola ran past a couple of defenders but was halted with a foul on the edge of the penalty

area. He fell so theatrically, however, that the free kick was given to Ghana.

And he was shown the yellow card.



Ghana's Rahman Issah weaves past Argentina's Daniel Montenegro in his side's 1-0 defeat of the hot favourite.

## Blatter praises Nigerian organisers

By Brian Homewood  
in Lagos

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has praised Nigerian organisers of the World Youth championship and said his only complaint was of the small crowds at some games.

Blatter, who has watched five games at the World Youth championship, said that Nigeria had silenced the critics who claimed the country was not capable of organising the 24-team competition.

"My own impressions are better than the ones I have got from reading the local media," he said.

"I have a good impression of the organisation and this is shared by the players, coaches, referees and most of the media."

"The facilities are meeting the basic conditions of FIFA and are even above these conditions - the stadia, the training grounds, the transport organisation, the hotels and, above all, the hospitality given by the Nigerian people and I think this is a wonderful achievement."

"I never doubted Nigeria could do it and they proved they can do it," he added.

"I believe in Africa."

Blatter brushed off a flood-light failure during Sunday's Mexico-Ireland match as

something that could happen anywhere.

Blatter was in the stadium when it was plunged into darkness in the second half.

"It happened at the World Youth Championship in Australia and it has happened at a World Cup in a European country," he said.

"The important thing is how quickly you react and in Ibadan they did it very well."

But he said there was no excuse for the deserted terraces before which some matches were played.

"How did they manage to keep the people out of the stadium on the first and second match days?"

"There's such a huge interest everywhere."

He then claimed that support was growing for his proposal to hold a World Cup every two years.

He reiterated that he saw the idea as viable if tournaments such as the European championship and Africans Nations' Cup were used as qualifying competitions.

"At the moment, if a player misses a World Cup, he has an eight year-gap between World Cups and by the next one, he might be too old."

There would be less games rather than more if nations adhered to his proposed worldwide calendar, which would set aside specific dates for international games.

Blatter also envisaged a huge future for women's football, describing himself as converted to the cause.

"There are 40 million girls and women playing the game. By the year 2006, as many girls as boys will be playing," he said.

## England join Germany in World Youth Cup exit

By Brian Homewood

England joined Germany in making an early exit from the World Youth championship on Sunday, with a 2-0 defeat by Japan sending them home without a point and the only team without a goal to their credit.

Portugal and Uruguay spent most of their second half watching each other pass the ball around as they drew 0-0, a result which put both sides into the next round.

Brazil overwhelmed Zambia 5-1 to cruise into round two, while the United States, Japan, Costa Rica and Spain also booked their places.

Sunday's results threw up some intriguing second round clashes including Mexico v Argentina, Paraguay v Uruguay and an all-African affair between Cameroon and Mali. Zambia were the only African team to go out while all but one of the seven Latin American sides qualified.

Germany went out after los-

ing to Costa Rica on Saturday. England began Sunday with a theoretical chance of going through thanks to the generous rule which eliminated only eight of the 24 teams in the first round.

The top two in each group plus the four sides with the best records in third qualified.

But England were out of contention by the time they kicked off their evening game against Japan in Bauchi, the combination of results in the afternoon matches having extinguished all hope.

Apart from a first half effort by Stephen Wright, disallowed for a foul on the goalkeeper, England rarely looked like scoring.

Adding to their gloom, Kevin Nicholls was sent off for a second bookable offence near the end.

Japan went ahead when Tatsuya Ishikawa scored from a free kick in the 40th minute.

Shinji Ono rounded off the win just after halftime to give Japan first place in group E.

They led the United States and Cameroon on goal difference, all three finishing with six points after the North Americans won 3-1 in the afternoon thanks to two goals by Taylor Twellman and one from Carlos Bocanegra.

Portugal and Uruguay knew a draw would send them both through when they started their group D game in Enugu.

The match produced few serious efforts on goal and was littered with time-wasting and players collapsing injured.

For the last half hour, the teams took it in turns to stroke the ball around in their own half while their opponents watched.

"We know it was a dull match but we had to qualify. If we reach the final, nobody will remember this game," said Portugal coach Jesualdo Ferreira.

Both teams finished with four points, Portugal qualifying in second place and Uruguay as one of the best third-placed sides.

## Concern at disappointingly small crowds

FIFA has been disappointed by the low turn-out at most matches in the under-20 World Youth Championship in Nigeria, a spokesman told *Inside Soccer* on Sunday.

"Attendance so far has been disappointing," said Marius Schneider, the day after just

800 spectators turned up to watch Australia and Ireland play in Ibadan on Saturday.

"Even for the opening match in Lagos, a sell-out of the tickets would have been expected ... for a country as Nigeria which prides itself as a soccer-crazy nation," Schnei-

der said. The Lagos stadium has not yet been sold out in the championship which runs until April 24, featuring youth teams from 24 countries around the world.

And turnout has been lower elsewhere, in the seven other stadia where the event is being

staged. Only 2,000 people watched the Germany and Paraguay match in Lagos on Sunday, in a stadium that has a seating capacity of 39,000.

Nigeria is normally viewed as a sports-hungry nation and commentators here have put the low turn-out at matches

down to the slide in average income in recent years and the live broadcast of some matches.

The fall in income here has put even relatively cheap tickets - the lowest being at 250 naira (\$A4.33) - out of the reach of many Nigerians.

# Costly loss against Mexico dents Aussie chances

AUSTRALIAN hopes in the World Youth soccer championship were jolted last Wednesday when group favourite Mexico outplayed the Young Socceroos 3-1 at Ibadan in Nigeria.

To add to Australia's woes, midfielder Jason Culina missed a penalty and Michael Cunico earned a second yellow card which saw him suspended from the final group game against Ireland.

After the defeat Australia had to beat Ireland on Saturday to ensure a place in the next round.

Culina's miss in the 77th minute was probably the most damaging as Mexico was leading 2-1 at the time and an Australian goal would have boosted the Young Socceroos to hold out for a draw.

But the Mexicans showed that they deserved their group favouritism with a skilled

## WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEXICO 3 (Rafael, Rodriguez, Osorno)  
AUSTRALIA 1 (Sterjovski)  
Venue: Ibadan

Mexico: Martinez, Mendez, Mascorro, Rouez, Morales, Torrado, Nava (Mendoza 67), Torino (Gonzalez 75), Juan Rodriguez, Osorno (Pacheco 89), Eduardo Rodriguez. Coach: Jesus Del Muro Lopez  
Australia: Breaden, Emerton, Wilson, Colosimo, Bosnar, Culina, Grella (Terminello 62), Bresciano (Invincible 62), Maisano (Griffiths 46), Sterjovski, Cunico. Coach: Les Scheinflug  
Yellow Cards: Breaden 57, Cunico 60, Morales 70, Mendez 78, Colosimo 91.  
Referee: Carlos Eugenio Simon (BRA)

## FIFA Match Summary

An early and late goal characterised the first half. Again, like in the first match against Ireland, the Mexican captain opened the score with a free-kick goal.

From then on, the Mexicans controlled the first half with ease until the final seconds, when Sterjovski could escape on a long ball and equalise.

After the break, Aussie keeper Breaden had three brilliant saves before he finally fouled Osorno in the box and Rodriguez converted the penalty.

The second half proved to be more exciting. Mexico's keeper was put to the test when Australia was awarded a penalty on a handball by Culina.

Martinez's save proved to be decisive as the superior Mexican team went on to score a late goal against the Socceroos.

display of speed and control which frequently pinned the Australians in their own half.

The match started with

a shock second minute goal when Mexico earned a free kick, enabling captain Rafael Marquez to curl his shot over the

wall and into the corner of the net.

It took the Australians time to recover as the Mexicans kept up their quick counter-attacks with Eddy Bosnar and Mexico's Jose Nava having shots cleared off the line.

Australia's first real chance came in the 23rd minute, Lindsay Wilson winning a corner but Eddy Bosnar's resulting shot cleared off the line.

Bosnar himself was in the same position not long after, clearing the ball off the Australian line after the Mexican attack had drawn goalkeeper Anthony Breaden out of position.

Australia finally got the goal they were seeking seconds before the half time break when Brett Emerton launched a 50 metre pass into the path of the running Mile Sterjovski who outpaced the defence and chipped over the keeper's head.

Mexico made a similar start to the second half, pushing back the Australians who were getting lax in defence against the quick-passing opposition.

The Australian defence was called on early in the second half, captain Simon Colosimo clearing the ball off the line in the 51st minute, and barely 30 seconds later, Breaden making an important save.

Daniel Osorno, who was proving a thorn to the defenders, wriggled through almost to the goal line where he was brought down by keeper Breaden, allowing Pablo Rodriguez to convert the



Australia's Brett Emerton

## 58th minute penalty.

Australia had two excellent opportunities to draw the scores back level, the first in the 77th minute via a free kick just outside the box, Culina hitting the ball around the wall, but unable to beat the keeper who parried his shot onto the crossbar.

With 13 minutes remaining, a Mexican defender handled the ball in the area and Culina pushed the ball to the right with the keeper guessing correctly and smothering the shot.

Only one minute earlier, Culina had hit a tre-

mendous 20 metre free kick which the keeper could only palm on to the cross bar with substitute Joel Griffiths unable to put away the loose ball.

With the Australians pushing up to try and draw level, the Mexicans again found gaps in the defence and Osorno snatched the last goal with seven minutes left.

"Going down a goal that early in the game put on added pressure that we just didn't need," said captain Simon Colosimo after the match.

"Pulling one back right on half time was a bonus though, it put us into the

break with a different perspective and set the game up for anything to happen.

"In the end everything happened, their penalty changing the game's perspective initially, and then our penalty and not scoring it changing the flow and balance of the game as well."

"We needed to win this game and by not winning it we've put ourselves under more pressure - but in any case we would have gone into Saturday's game with the same 'must win' attitude, and we can still do it."

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# BULLEEN INTER KINGS

PROFILE OF AN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER CLUB



## Kings looking to a future at the top of Australian soccer

by Bruce Campbell

**BULLEEN** Inter Kings are one of the power houses in Victorian Premier League soccer.

The result of an amalgamation in late 1996 between Bulleen Lions, Box Hill Inter and factions of the former Brunswick Juventus, the Kings have gone into this tough VPL season as

reigning double winners.

But the ambitions of the Kings stretch far beyond winning another Premier League title – with a place in the National Soccer League within the next two years.

"Gary Cole has been appointed coach for the next two years and his extensive playing experience with the Socceroos and coaching career throughout Australia will be invaluable to the development of the club."

starting to take shape. "Our aim is also to be in a position to enter the National Soccer League within the next two years.

Soccer in Victoria, and

Melbourne in particular, has slumped somewhat behind other states in the last few years which is even more disappointing for southern fans considering that state's position of dominance in the 1950s and 60s.

The emergence of the NSL into a viable national competition in the early years of this decade has no doubt promoted the move in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne to present a consolidated challenge.

The Kings intend that challenge should be theirs and their impressive structure and commercial backing would suggest that they will soon be a club that the NSL just cannot keep out.

Talk of promotion and relegation from the NSL has also been a hot subject in the last six months and the shift to a summer competition at the end of the 2000 Victorian Pre-

mier League will certainly facilitate a direct route to the elite level.

"Central to our success is the feeder system from the AIS in Canberra and a career in athletics coaching while Zdravko Atanasovski transferred to Green Gully. But the Kings compensated for those losses with the signing of Vlad Babic from Green Gully and Sava Rusmir from Altona Magic.

"While we are one of only two or three Victorian clubs able to take that next step into the NSL it needs to be financially viable.

"Currently we are seeing a number of clubs in the elite competition experiencing financial difficulties and we do not want Bulleen to become another statistic.

"The lack of promotion

year's successful squad have moved on.

Captain Eric Hollingsworth moved to the AIS in Canberra and a career in athletics

coaching while Zdravko

Atanasovski transferred to Green Gully. But the Kings compensated for those losses with the signing of Vlad Babic from Green Gully and Sava Rusmir from Altona Magic.

Despite the consolidation of their championship squad this season hasn't gone according to script for the Kings so far.

A scoreless draw against

Westvale and Springvale Eagles were ended by a 3-0 demolition of Sunshine.

But with four clubs

being relegated at the end

of the season as the

league is trimmed in

preparation for that event

shift to summer this was always going to be a

term when the unusual was going to happen.

Despite, all that the

club look forward confi-

dently to gradually moving

up the table and were

sitting in fifth spot as this

article went to press.

More importantly the

club is looking to the

future when it aims to

*"The Kings impressive structure and commercial backing would suggest that they will be a club that the NSL cannot keep out."*

and relegation has killed the motivation for most clubs to achieve greater things.

Almost inevitably some of the players from last

South Dandenong saw the club sitting in a mid-table position from which they have not managed to advance.

Successive draws

realise those ambitions, ambitions which were obvious when the amalgamations of similar parties took place just two years ago.

### FACTFILE

Bulleen Inter Kings

Major Sponsors:

The Veneto Club, The Grollo Group, Covo Sports, Barilla Pasta, The Barro Group, Adriatic Furniture, The Mirabella Group

President: Bruno Grollo

Coach: Gary Cole

Founded: 1996

Premier League History: 1997 2nd, 1998 1st

Honours:

League Premiers 1997

Grand Final Champions 1998

Colours:

Black and White vertical striped shirts

Black shorts and socks



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BULLEEN INTER KINGS celebrate winning the 1998 Victorian Premier League championship.  
Final score: Bulleen Inter Kings 3 St Albans Saints 2



1998 VICTORIAN CHAMPIONS

Back Row: Paat Sladino (team manager), Anthony Grbac, Eugene Galenkovic, Zdravko Atanazovski, Danny Gnjidic, Sean Keogh (vice captain), Paul Della Rocca John Waddell, Eric Hollingsworth (captain), Dean Tartaglia, Peter Balassone (president)  
Front Row: Nathan Thomas, Lenny Cattalano, Damon Collina, Michael Mazzini, Frank Valentuc, Agim Sherifovska, Robert Stojcevska

INSIDE SOCCER



# Soccer 1998



# Irish blast shot shy Aussies

By Paul Millar

AUSTRALIA'S hopes of advancing past the group stage of the World Youth Soccer Championship received a crushing blow on Saturday night when the Young Socceroos were hammered 4-0 by Ireland in Ibadan.

The Australians were left needing a minor miracle to stay in the competition with their hopes of advancing as one of the best placed sides to finish third in serious doubt.

Ireland, the European champions, looked comfortable in defence, speedy and gifted in attack and gave the Australians a lesson in finishing.

The win took the Irish to the top of the group, ahead of Mexico which has still to play Saudi Arabia, while Australia's tournament is almost certainly over.

The Young Socceroos

## WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

**IRELAND 4 (Sadlier, Duff, Healy, Crossley)**  
**AUSTRALIA 0**  
Venue: Ibadan

Ireland: Delaney, Heary, Gavin, Quinn (Crossley 84), Mc Phail, Keane (Baker 79), Duff, Healy, Sadlier (Casey 68), Donnelly, Ferguson. Coach: Brian Kerr  
Australia: Turnbull, Terminello (Griffiths 70), Wilson, Bosnar, Colosimo, Emerton, Bresciano, Grella, Culina (Care 46), Maisano (Invincible 46), Sterjovski. Coach: Les Scheinflug  
Yellow Cards: Grella 37, Gavin 50, Colosimo 90.  
Referee: Serguey Shmolik (BLR)

### FIFA Match Summary

Despite the under very hot and humid conditions, both teams started the match at a high pace and demonstrating good attacking football.

The lead for Ireland after 20 minutes was deserved.

With two fresh players for the second half, the Socceroos could maintain the speed high and keep the pressure on their opponents, however, the Aussies were unable to create the opportunities and even the score.

A brilliant solo by Duff, immediately followed by a second strike by Healy, sealed the fate for the Australians with a late goal placing the European champions at least second in their group.

only have one win in their group beating the Saudis after falling to Mexico.

Ireland took charge of the first half in stifling heat against a pedestrian

Australia that ran out of ideas when it moved forward.

Damien Duff fired a looping cross into the box after 20 minutes and Richard Sadlier rose

unmarked to punish the stunned Australians.

A disallowed goal for offside to John Maisano right on the stroke of half time seemed to spur the Australians into higher



Canberra Cosmos's Young Socceroo Lindsay Wilson

gear, with second half substitutes Christian Care and Danny Invincible in the action.

However, the Young Socceroos struggled to get a shot on target.

Marco Bresciano raced through the heart of the Irish defence but skied

the ball over the crossbar.

Ireland then hit Australia on the counter with livewire Duff twisted his way past the Australian defence tucking ball home to give his side a two-goal buffer after 73 minutes.

Before Australia had

time to recover Rob Keane had picked out Colin Healy with a pinpoint cross and the Young Socceroos were 3-0 down as he slammed home after 74 minutes.

Gary Crossley scored the fourth in the 90th minute.

LINDEMANS

AUSTRALIA'S CLASSIC WINEMAKER

# WORLD YOUTH CUP - NIGERIA '99

## FIRST STAGE

### GROUP A

03-04-99	Nigeria 1	Costa Rica 1
04-04-99	Germany 4	Paraguay 0
07-04-99	Nigeria 2	Germany 0
07-04-99	Costa Rica 1	Paraguay 3
10-04-99	Nigeria	Paraguay
10-04-99	Costa Rica	Germany

### GROUP B

04-04-99	Ghana 1	Croatia 1
04-04-99	Argentina 1	Kazakhstan 0
07-04-99	Ghana 1	Argentina 0
07-04-99	Croatia 5	Kazakhstan 1
10-04-99	Ghana	Kazakhstan
10-04-99	Croatia	Argentina

### GROUP C

04-04-99	Australia 3	Saudi Arabia 1
04-04-99	Mexico 1	Ireland 0
07-04-99	Australia 1	Mexico 3
07-04-99	Saudi Arabia 0	Ireland 2
10-04-99	Australia 0	Ireland 4
10-04-99	Saudi Arabia 1	Mexico 1

### GROUP D

05-04-99	Uruguay	Mali
05-04-99	Korea Rep	Portugal
08-04-99	Uruguay 1	Korea Republic 0
08-04-99	Mali 2	Portugal 1
11-04-99	Uruguay 0	Portugal 0
11-04-99	Mali 2	Korea Republic 4

### GROUP E

05-04-99	Cameroon	Japan
05-04-99	England	United States
08-04-99	Cameroon 1	England 0
08-04-99	Japan	United States
11-04-99	Cameroon 1	United States 3
11-04-99	Japan 2	England 0

### GROUP F

05-04-99	Zambia	Honduras
05-04-99	Spain	Brazil
08-04-99	Zambia	Spain
08-04-99	Honduras	Brazil
11-04-99	Zambia 1	Brazil 5
11-04-99	Honduras 1	Spain 3

## SECOND STAGE

### ROUND OF 16

14-04-99	Kano
16:00	2nd C vs. 2nd A
14-04-99	Kaduna
16:00	1st B vs. 3rd ACD
14-04-99	Lagos
19:00	1st A vs. 3rd CDE
14-04-99	Calabar
19:00	2nd F vs. 2nd B
15-04-99	Bauchi
16:00	1st E vs. 2nd D
15-04-99	Port Harcourt
16:00	1st F vs. 2nd E
15-04-99	Ibadan
19:00	1st C vs. 3rd ABF
15-04-99	Enugu
19:00	1st D vs. 3rd BEF

### QUARTERFINALS

18-04-99	Lagos
16:00	Winner 39 vs. Winner 40
18-04-99	Enugu
16:00	Winner 44 vs. Winner 37
18-04-99	Ibadan
19:00	Winner 41 vs. Winner 43
18-04-99	Kaduna
19:00	Winner 42 vs. Winner 38

### SEMIFINALS

21-04-99	Kaduna
16:00	Winner 46 vs. Winner 48
21-04-99	Lagos
19:00	Winner 45 vs. Winner 47

### THIRD PLACE

24-04-99	Lagos
14:00	L 50 vs. L 49

### FINAL

24-04-99	Lagos
17:00	Winner 50 vs. Winner 49

Saturday 3 April

Group A  
Nigeria 1 Costa Rica 1  
Aghahowa 20 Melendez 83pen  
Halftime: 1-0  
Attendance: 45,000

Sunday April 4  
Group A  
Germany 4 Paraguay 0  
Kern 45, 60, 69 Falk 89  
Red card: Miguel Dominguez (Paraguay)  
Halftime: 1-0  
Attendance: 3,000

Group B  
Ghana 1 Croatia 1  
Ofori-Quaye 60 Deranja 22  
Halftime: 0-1  
Attendance: 5,000

Group C  
Australia 3 Saudi Arabia 1  
Culina 29 Mohammed 90  
Maisino 70 own goal 76  
Halftime: 1-0  
Attendance: 3,000

April 7  
Group A (in Lagos)  
Nigeria 2 Germany 0  
Scorers: Ganiyu Shittu 60, Hashimu Garba 70  
Halftime: 0-0  
Attendance: 3,000

Group A (in Kaduna)  
Ghana 1 Kazakhstan 0  
Scorers: Baffour Gyan 48, 69, Toto Adu 52  
HT: 0-0  
Att: 3,000

Group B (in Ibadan)  
Ireland 4 Australia 0  
Scorers: Richie Sadlier 19, Damien Duff 74, Colin Healy 75, Gary Crossley 90  
HT: 1-0  
Att: 8,000

Group C (in Kaduna)  
Ghana 1 Argentina 0  
Scorer: Peter Ofori-Quaye 77  
Halftime: 0-0  
Attendance: 5,000

Group D (in Ibadan)  
Croatia 5 Kazakhstan 1  
Scorers: Croatia - Zvonimir Deranja 8, Ali Aliyev 37og, Silvester Sabolci 79, Ivica Banovic 83, Sasa Bjelanovic 90  
Kazakhstan - Yerlan Urazayev 67  
HT: 2-0  
Att: 5,000

Group E (in Kaduna)  
Mexico 3 Australia 1  
Scorers: Mexico - Rafael Marquez 2, Juan Rodriguez 58pen, Daniel Osorno 83  
Australia - Mile Sterjovski 45  
Halftime: 1-1  
Attendance: 2,000

Group F (in Enugu)  
Uruguay 0 Portugal 0  
Attendance: 5,000

Mali 2 South Korea 4  
Scorers: Mali - Mahamadou Dissa 57, Mamadou Bagayoko 60 South Korea - Seo Ki-bok 1, Nah Hee-geun 20pen, Seol Ki-hyeon 35, Lee Dong-gook 70  
Halftime: 0-3  
Att: 5,000

Group G (in Bauchi)  
Cameroon 1 United States 1  
Scorers: Cameroon - Francis Kiyo 64  
U.S. - Taylor Twellman 39, 79, Carlos Bocanegra 58  
Halftime: 0-1  
Att: 9,000

Japan 2 England 0  
Scorers: Tatsuya Ishikawa 40, Shinji Ono 49  
Red card: Kevin Nicholls (England)  
HT: 1-0  
Att: 9,000

Group H (in Port-Harcourt)  
Zambia 1 Brazil 5  
Scorers: Zambia - Andrew Sinkala 9  
Brazil - Ronaldo 27, Fabio Aurelio 45, Fernando Baiano 65, Mancini 69, Rodrigo Gral 80pen  
Red card: Stanley Mumba (Zambia)  
HT: 1-2  
Att: 14,000

Honduras 1 Spain 3  
Scorers:  
Honduras - Carlos Oliva 76

(In Bauchi):  
Japan 3 United States 1  
Scorers: not yet available  
HT: 1-0  
Att: 2,000

Group F (in Calabar):  
Zambia 0 Spain 0  
Att: 10,000

(In Port-Harcourt):  
Honduras 0 Brazil 3  
Scorers: Edu 36, 80, Matuzalem 41  
HT: 0-2  
Att: 8,000

April 10  
Group A (in Lagos):  
Nigeria 1 Paraguay 2  
Scorers: Nigeria - Ganiyu Shittu 40 Paraguay - Sergio Fernandez 8, Ruben Maldonado 19  
Halftime: 1-2  
Attendance: 16,000

Costa Rica 2 Germany 1  
Scorers: Costa Rica - Alberto Brenes 33, Esteban Santana 69 Germany - Christian Timm 38  
Red card: Andreas Voss (Germany)  
HT: 1-1  
Att: 13,000

Group B (in Kaduna):  
Ghana 3 Kazakhstan 0  
Scorers: Baffour Gyan 48, 69, Toto Adu 52  
HT: 0-0  
Att: 3,000

Argentina 0 Croatia 0  
Att: 3,000

Group C (in Ibadan):  
Ireland 4 Australia 0  
Scorers: Richie Sadlier 19, Damien Duff 74, Colin Healy 75, Gary Crossley 90  
HT: 1-0  
Att: 8,000

Mali 2 South Korea 4  
Scorers: Mali - Mahamadou Dissa 57, Mamadou Bagayoko 60 South Korea - Seo Ki-bok 1, Nah Hee-geun 20pen, Seol Ki-hyeon 35, Lee Dong-gook 70  
Halftime: 0-3  
Att: 5,000

Group E (in Bauchi):  
Cameroon 1 United States 1  
Scorers: Cameroon - Francis Kiyo 64  
U.S. - Taylor Twellman 39, 79, Carlos Bocanegra 58  
Halftime: 0-1  
Att: 9,000

Japan 2 England 0  
Scorers: Tatsuya Ishikawa 40, Shinji Ono 49  
Red card: Kevin Nicholls (England)  
HT: 1-0  
Att: 9,000

Group F (in Port-Harcourt):  
Zambia 1 Brazil 5  
Scorers: Zambia - Andrew Sinkala 9  
Brazil - Ronaldo 27, Fabio Aurelio 45, Fernando Baiano 65, Mancini 69, Rodrigo Gral 80pen  
Red card: Stanley Mumba (Zambia)  
HT: 1-2  
Att: 14,0

## NSW SUPER LEAGUE BIG MATCH UPDATE

# 10 MAN BULLS LOSE UNBEATEN RECORD

by Derek Royal

ARNO Bertogna's Leichhardt Tigers gave their faithful something to smile about with an upset 3-1 victory against Fairfield Bulls at Nineveh Field on Saturday.

Fresh from an embarrassing 5-1 defeat to Bonnyrigg White Eagles, the Tigers not only snatched the three points but ended the Bulls' unbeaten home record.

"We've had an indifferent season so far," said Bertogna.

"We started the season well but were ravaged by injuries. Now, at last, some of the (injured) players are starting to come back."

The visitors opened the scoring in the first minute after Chris Lansdown was brought down on the edge of the penalty box and Sarkis Boudaher struck home the resultant free kick.

Despite the setback, the newly-promoted Bulls played some constructive football and showed why, in their first season of Super League, they were competition leaders.

Striker Mathew Borg had an opportunity to level the score but he blasted his shot over the bar in a one-on-one with Tigers' keeper Frank Mikuletic.

But in the 32nd minute and to the delight of the home supporters, goal-poacher Mark Hoenselaars slotted home the equaliser after some

**FAIRFIELD BULLS 1** (Hoenselaars)  
**LEICHARDT TIGERS 3** (Boudaher, Talcevski, Lansdown)  
Venue: Nineveh Field  
Man of the Match: Eric Hristodoulou LCHT

great lead-up work by Borg and Jeff Suzor. Bulls coach Joe Watson addressed his men at halftime safe in the knowledge that at 1-all and with 45 minutes to play, his side was more than capable of snatching the spoils.

But just three minutes after the restart, the complexion of the game changed when Bulls' forward Paul Bourke was sent from the field for retaliation.

Despite being down to ten men, the Bulls continued to press forward, with the strike-force of Borg and Hoenselaars causing havoc in the Tigers' defence.

But eventually, the gaps appeared in the Bulls' defence and Leichhardt began to dominate.

In the 64th minute, Mite Talcevski gave his side the lead with a strike from close range, while Chris Lansdown completed the scoring six minutes later.

Bertogna praised skipper Eric Hristodoulou for yet another class performance, while Vince Savocca and Blago Milicevic were others to shine.

Marksmen Borg and Hoenselaars were their side's best and young keeper Sean Cahill did a fine job as a replacement

for regular custodian Dragon Pupovac.

Joe Watson wasn't too concerned with the defeat and under the circumstances, was quite happy with the performance of his team.

"They all played well, but when you're down to ten men it makes life difficult," he said.

"At the beginning of the year we didn't think we'd be doing this well, so we're certainly not panicking."

AND a Gomez double lifted Bonnyrigg to a 3-1 win over Canterbury writes PATRICK GALLAWAY.

A first half double from in-form striker Robbie Gomez inspired Bonnyrigg to their third successive win last Sunday afternoon at the Serbian Centre against a spirited Canterbury - Marrickville.

The win will cement a place in the Top Four for Bonnyrigg, whilst the loss will serve as a harsh reminder for the Berries that if they are serious about making the finals, they need to click into gear immediately.

The opening to the match saw the play centred in Canterbury - Marrickville's half, with Bonnyrigg capitalising on some rather lacklustre

Gomez himself stepped

defending at the back.

Stray passes and some poor tackles were the contributing factors to a very strong opening for Bonnyrigg, who were impressing the healthy crowd with their pace and running off the ball.

A side camped in their opposition's half for fifteen minutes would consider themselves a good chance of scoring.

In the 15th minute of the match Robbie Gomez converted a strong period of Bonnyrigg domination onto the scoreboard.

A wayward switch of play from Nick Bosevski saw the ball intercepted by Bonnyrigg's Javier Manchino, who then played the ball into the centre of the park to Paul Richardson.

A delightful through ball followed and Gomez delightfully chipped a quickly approaching Steve Tolios.

To be fair Canterbury - Marrickville did gradually claw their way back into the match, although there was little to come by in terms of goal scoring opportunities.

Their gradual recuperation, however slow, was stifled when a Gomez run saw him blatantly held back by a beaten Adrian Molochino just inside the

Gomez himself stepped

up for the kick, and confidently blasted the ball into the top of the net, much to the frustration of a diving Tolios.

The sides went into the break with the score at two goals to nil.

With the Bonnyrigg faithful talking about their side's first half performance, Canterbury - Marrickville came out from the break giving them something else to talk about.

A few structural changes which included moving captain Matt Percy back to sweeper and bringing Terry Palapanis out to the right flank, proved to be a very effective change.

Some nifty two-touch football saw the Berries midfield creating opportunities and fighting back from a quiet first half.

Jim Nikas on the left and Jane Talcevski in the centre of the park to Paul Richardson.

A delightful through ball followed and Gomez delightfully chipped a quickly approaching Steve Tolios.

To be fair Canterbury - Marrickville did gradually claw their way back into the match, although there was little to come by in terms of goal scoring opportunities.

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Gomez himself stepped



Leichhardt's Eric Hristodoulou

Photo by Carrasco Furtado

rigg met the Berries attacks with a very strong will not to let their early work go to waste.

With Canterbury in search of an equaliser, there were bound to be opportunities for Bonnyrigg on the counter attack.

In the 83rd minute Colin Luff made a great run, beating sweeper Matt Percy and dribbling the ball around Tolios, he fired the ball into a narrow angle from the right and got a perfect deflection off Berries defender for a 3-1 end result.

## LAW SUIT UPDATE WHITE EAGLES WIN ROUND TWO

THE Illawarra Soccer Association's Premier League competition has been thrown into chaos after the New South Wales Supreme Court ordered that Wollongong White Eagles be reinstated pending a full hearing on April 20.

White Eagles had previously been ousted after the ISA board found it in breach of regulations regarding the registration of players from outside of the district.

The ISA has a regulation which stipulates that no more than four non-Illawarra resident players may be registered with

any club in one single year.

But White Eagles official Michael Prodanovic believes that the rule is flawed and his club took legal action after being expelled from the Premier League.

Ironically, the first round of the new season should have been a match up between White Eagles, last year's champions, and Cringila Lions, last year's league premiers.

The game was sure to attract a 2,000+ crowd to Cringila's Crehan Park.

The ramifications of a possible lost law suit are

enormous for the ISA with Cringila officials already suggesting that they will seek compensation from the ISA over a loss of revenue.

"We want \$5,000 which is what we lost by not having the game," Inside Soccer was told.

And should the ISA eventually lose the case, which is now set to run into a six figure sum in legal fees, then it could also be facing a hefty claim for damages from White Eagles.

"They say they have had legal advice and so has our board," says ISA president Norma Flana-

gan. At the end of the day the only ones who really seem to win are the legal boys – and it looks like a case of who's opinion is right."

Although White Eagles

have clearly won round two in the fight it remains to be seen who will ultimately come out on top.

The likelihood is that

the case, which is also set to be heard by a NSWFC tribunal in two weeks, will stagger on through a series of court continuations and could last until the end of the season.

White Eagles are due to play Olympic on Saturday.

## NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

## ROUND 12

Saturday 17th April

Central Coast v Macarthur Rams  
Plum Park, 6:00pm

Sunday 18th April

Sutherland Sharks v Canterbury Marrickville

Seymour Shaw Field, 3:00pm

Parramatta Eagles v Leichhardt Tigers

Melita Stadium, 3:00pm

Eastern Suburbs v Blacktown City Demons

Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

Fairfield Bulls v Ryde City

Nineveh Field, 3:00pm

Bankstown City Lions v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Jensen Park, 3:00pm

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## QUEENSLAND PREMIER LEAGUE BIG MATCH UPDATE

# Taringa Triumph in Battle of the Rovers

by Paul Harley

ROCHEDALE slumped to their third consecutive defeat as Taringa moved above them in the standings with a stumpy 1-0 victory in Friday night's battle of the Rovers.

With second at home to third, and leaders Lions facing fourth placed City on Sunday, both teams knew that victory would see them move to the top of the league, at least temporarily.

The stage was set, then, for a stirring encounter, as clashes between these two often are.

Unfortunately, this one failed to meet these expectations, as a large and often vocal crowd witnessed a disappointing game.

Taringa had a chance to go ahead after less than a minute, when Alun Evans was well short with an attempted backpass from almost half way.

Richie Hilli pounced, with a clear run into the penalty area, but dragged his shot well wide from

12 yards.

This turned out to be the clearest chance of a

post cross which home goalkeeper Graham Ross just got a hand to ahead

minutes, either for a trip or for telling Mr. Ogston what he thought of the

**ROCHEDALE ROVERS 0  
TARINGA ROVERS 1**  
Venue: Underwood Park

Rochdale: Ross, Brattan, Lane, Harris, Davidson, (Olley), Pilic, Legg (Fitzsimmons), Ditton, Evans, Cooper, Koch.  
Taringa: Dal Santo, Theochari, Molenda, Lowndes, Day, Packer, Bland, (Slaughter), Robinson, Wood, Dawe, (Kuyper), Hilli, (Lewendowski)  
Referee: David Ogston Assts: John Peacock, Peter Green.

lack lustre first half.

Play was largely confined to midfield, both sides lacking a cutting edge.

Rochdale's first serious attack after 12 minutes saw Brad Ditton attempt to set up Kieran Cooper with a through ball, but Taringa skipper Clint Dal Santo was quickly off his line to deny the chance.

Evans caused his side problems again after 20 minutes, a wayward pass falling to Scott Robinson, but he was rescued by his skipper Gary Brattan.

Robinson did well a minute later, turning sharply to deliver a far

of Ben Wood, and gathered at the second attempt.

Then it was Brattan giving the ball away, Ross Davidson bailing his skipper out as Andrew Packer tried to capitalise.

Rochdale threatened briefly approaching the half hour, Clayton Koch first curling a free kick narrowly over the junction of post and bar.

A minute later he challenged Dal Santo for a high ball, the keeper fumbling but his defence helping him out.

Brattan, already spoken to by the referee, was yellow carded after 32

decision.

He also conceded a free kick at the edge of the penalty area, but Packer sent it well over.

The home team ended the half on top, twice coming close, but denied by fine goalkeeping.

Michael Legg's long range attempt took a slight deflection, but Dal Santo wasn't deceived by the spin this put on the ball, holding on well at full stretch.

Legg set up the next effort, beating three men in a forceful run down the right and crossing for Cooper at the near post.

Dal Santo dived smartly to his left to hold

his powerful close range header, ensuring a scoreless first half.

The second half opened with Legg picking up a yellow card for a two-footed challenge on Robinson. Hilli had a couple of early chances, the first sailing well over, the second saved by Ross and scrambled for a corner.

Ditton hit back for Rochdale, a 20-yard effort held by Dal Santo low to his left.

This prompted some spirited vocal backing by the home support, but in truth there wasn't much for them to get excited about, both teams still struggling for inspiration.

Rochdale almost provided it midway through the half, Legg bursting clear onto a through ball and guiding it around the outrushing Dal Santo.

However, the shot lacked pace and a defender got back to clear off the line.

This sparked Taringa belatedly into action, and they dominated the closing quarter of the game.

Almost immediately, Hilli raced through to be hauled back by Damian Harris at the edge of the area, for which he received a deserved yellow card.

Robinson's free kick was superbly struck, but

matched by Ross with a spectacular full stretch dive to turn the ball for a corner.

Ross repeated the effort five minutes later, scooping away Wood's header from a fine Robinson cross.

Shortly after, he denied

Robinson again,

getting down well to palm his long range effort around the post.

Then Hilli burst

through the middle again,

but Ross closed down his

angle and comfortably

held his shot from the

edge of the area.

The breakthrough

finally came in the 79th

minute.

A Rochdale attack

broke down,

and a quick

Taringa counter

saw

Packer with a clear run

on goal from the half way

line.

Holding his nerve,

he waited for Ross to

AND Tony Moran writes that in other QPL action Early first half goals from Wayne Strange and Nathan Carloss saw City race to a two goal lead midway through the half. Veteran Frank Mengotti pulled one back for the home side just before the break, but that was the end of the scoring. However City's victory was soured when captain Shane Haddow was sent off ten minutes from time for a second bookable offence, but they hung on for the valuable three points.

On Saturday night the Bundaberg Waves saw off the visit of Toowoomba with a 4-0 win. Two goals from Greg Thomas and one apiece from Adam Conkie and Daniel Cummins, keeps the Waves in fifth position on the ladder, with 14 points, whilst Toowoomba stay anchored at the bottom with 4. Wynnum's season continues to improve with a 4-2 win over Mount Gravatt. Goals from Wayne Hinton, Scott Rocker, Anthony Roche and Luke Adair were answered by two goals from Daryl Grundy for the Mounties. Wynnum have now taken seven points from their last three games, including the prized scalp of Brisbane City last weekend.

Gold Coast's fixture with the Ipswich Knights was washed out due to heavy rain on the coast.

## Politics and Soccer Clash

by Bert van Bedaf

tone of the match.

Taking a throw-in, Preston's Tony Ujgunovski was pelted with objects.

There were chants of "Prestina", the capital of Kosovo and also the original name of South Dandenong.

The name of the Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosovic could also be heard.

The tragedy of Kosovo, which touches many Balkan communities, including Serbians, Albanians and Macedonians, already spilled on to the soccer ground in round five, when the match between Serbian-backed Springvale White Eagles and South Dandenong was played on a neutral ground behind closed gates for fear of incidents.

Both clubs were unhappy with Victorian Soccer Federation decision.

"We received police intelligence at the time that groups from outside the soccer clubs were going to use the fixture for their own purposes," VSF chief executive Geoff Miles commented at the time.

## NSW Division 1 and 2 action

with Paul Goodwin

DULWICH Hill lost their leading scorer Zlatko Momircevski to a red card only 30 minutes into their NSW First Division game against a youthful A C United at Arlington Oval on Sunday, yet for the rest of the game they virtually dominated proceedings and could easily have scraped out a win.

Veteran midfielder Sasha Spiroski smashed a header against the bar in the 61st minute after earlier attempts by Phil Cac-

ciola had missed the target.

Instead, the ten men succumbed to a simple far post header by AC substitute Marcello Ortiz, who was left unmarked to find the top left corner from a lofted cross by Nino Marollo out on the right touchline in the 87th minute.

It was not pretty by AC, coached these days by former Marconi favourite Tony Henderson, but they too had their

chances and could also have sewn it up earlier.

Second Division hot title favourites, Hajduk Wanderers, hit a hapless Sydney District for nine without reply as they appear to be charging relentlessly on to another unbeaten premiership

They have now scored 19 without reply in their four matches to date, Sunday's game seeing no fewer than eight different players getting their names on the scoresheet.

## NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND-UP

### With Roy Hay

#### Southern Division

SOUTH Melbourne had a comfortable eight-two win over Albury Wodonga at Myrtleford in Round 28 last Saturday.

Albury Wodonga was in the game for most of the first period scoring twice in that time through Quentin O'Grady.

But gradually South Melbourne got on top and goals followed in steady procession from Andrew Mashian 2, Adam Poole 2 and Grant Kennedy 2, and singles by Daniel Malina and Erhan Bayraktar.

John Kennedy reports it was clean, open game, well refereed, but his South Melbourne team proved just a little too classy in the end.

CARLTON beat Gippsland Falcons by three goals to one at Olympic Park in a match which was free to spectators as Carlton said thank-you to its fans.

Deniz Ekici, Dusko Delic and Adam Pongho scored for Carlton.

THE match between Bulleen Inter and the Victorian Institute of Sport will be played on 21 April.

THE VIS beat Johore Reserves in the opening match

#### Northern Division

SYDNEY Olympic just beat New South Wales Institute of Sport by two goals to one on a boggy pitch at Valentine Park to consolidate second spot on the ladder in the Northern Division.

There was no score till Leo Carle broke through for Olympic after 59 minutes in what had been a very tough encounter.

JIM Bakis made it two in 73 minutes, but three minutes later Shane Cansdell-Sheriff reduced the leeway.

Defender Matthew Rosier who has filled in brilliantly for Mark Byrnes who is in Nigeria with the Young Socceroos, came up from the back in the last minute and had a shot with his weaker right foot expertly saved by Peter Petrovski in the Olympic goal to leave the final score at two-one to Olympic.

This win sets up a marvellous final round game between the AIS and NSWIS with the latter having to win to give itself a chance of hanging on to fourth place.

The AIS is only four points ahead of Olympic which has a game in hand.

ACTAS Jason Kencevski and Steve Jordan each scored twice for United, while Adam Williams, Daniel Alifii and Matthew Jullienne scored for ACTAS.

WOLLONGONG Wolves beat Marconi Fairfield three-nil with goals by Paul Turevski, Kane Maccabe and Samer Nicola.

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**VICTORIAN BIG MATCH UPDATE**

# Raiders Jump to Fourth Place

by Bert van Bedaf

THERE were about 900 spectators to witness the rise of the Melbourne Raiders as championship contenders after they stared down the Sunshine Georgies 4-3 in a torrid encounter at Epping stadium last Sunday night.

The Raiders leapt ahead 2-0 before Sunshine topped them 3-2 in a lively second half, but despite their brave fight-back, the Georgies were forced to bow to the prolific striking skills of Nick Cuculeski, who bagged Melbourne's last two and vital goals in the last ten minutes.

Attacking left midfielder George Jolevski put the Raiders in front with only a minute before half-time, which still gave Sunshine some perspective after the break.

But Davide Iacovitte

headed home Melbourne's second goal from a Cuculeski cross and the Georgies seemed headed for a sizeable defeat.

Yet, Sunshine jumped into a higher gear and climbed over the top of the Raiders with a three-goal onslaught that had Melbourne reeling.

Alfonzo Opazo knocked in Sunshine's first goal after 64 minutes.

He put the Georgies a goal up with a penalty in the 78th minute, after Joe De Bonohad equalised for Sunshine a minute earlier.

But Kuleski sprayed his magic with two great goals in the 86th and 89th minutes to seal the match for the Raiders.

"We're rapped. This puts us into fourth position," a jubilant Raiders team manager Ross Fol-

lacchio said.

The story is different for Sunshine, which remains second bottom on eight points, two points above bottom-team Westvale.

IN OTHER round-ten results St Albans beat recent improver Altona Magic 4-2.

Fawkner notched up their second win in a row, first beating Bulleen 2-1 in the previous round and now downing Westvale also 2-1.

The ambivalent Bentleigh Greens drew 2-2 with the Bulleen Kings, while league leaders Port Melbourne Sharks maintained their unbeaten record, slugging Altona East 2-1.

The Sharks have now won eight and drawn two matches to lead the VPL on 26 points, well ahead of immediate rivals

Green Gully, Preston and Melbourne Raiders.

Some of credit for Fawkner's recent revival must go to midfielder Joe Biskic, who has successfully combined coaching the Melbourne Knights in the national league with playing for his premier league club.

Biskic scored against Westvale and hopes to have a few more strikes in store.

"I can play for Fawkner on Monday nights and once the national league finishes for the Knights (after round 30 against Carlton on April 25), I'll be available for Fawkner," Soccer's outstanding evergreen said.

ROUND 11 kicks off on Saturday with the match between Altona Magic and Melbourne Raiders at Paisley Park.

On Sunday, Port Melbourne hosts Preston, Springvale takes on Fawkner, Sunshine faces Green Gully at Chaplin



Westvale's former NSL striker Lachlan Armstrong

Reserve, while St Albans welcomes South Dandenong.

On Monday night Bulleen is at home against Altona East and Westvale against Bentleigh to complete the round.

MELBOURNE RAIDERS 4  
SUNSHINE GEORGIES 3

## Bulleen Contemplate Old Colours For New

by Bert van Bedaf

THE Bulleen Inter Kings are not quite seeing eye to eye with their coach Gary Cole after two home losses against Italian-backed rivals Melbourne Raiders and Fawkner, but there are also other rumblings disturbing the equilibrium at the de-

fending VPL champion.

The word is that the Veneto Social Club wants the soccer club to play in the old brown and yellow Bulleen Lions colours rather than the adopted black-and-white Juventus stripes.

The whisper is that this is very much a battle between the Veneto and

Calabrian camps at the Italian-supported club.

A former Veneto club president, Rino Tessarotto, said he was aware of talk of a change.

"I know there are people talking about it. But the Veneto committee has said nothing about it," he said.

Bulleen Kings presi-

dent Peter Balassone is annoyed about the rumours.

"If there's a problem, they should tell us about it."

"But as far as I know Veneto has zilch chance of forcing us to change."

"They can't force us to change colours."

"But we'll talk to them

and see what's on their mind.

"I can't believe this has come out without them talking to us first," he said.

The Bulleen Inter Kings are the product of a merger between the former Bulleen Lions, Box Hill Inter and the remains of the Juventus

club, which became instinct in a series of reincarnations from Brunswick United Juventus to BUSC United, Melbourne Pumas, Melbourne Zebras and Thomastown Zebras to merge with Bulleen and Inter.

The Bulleen Kings president Balassone is a former president of the Melbourne and Thomastown Zebras, as well as a past player and coach of Juventus.

## URUKALO APPOINTED COACH AT WESTVALE

by Bert van Bedaf

FORMER Bulleen and Heidelberg coach Michael Urukalo has taken over as coach of Victorian Premier League club Westvale from player-coach Phil Stubbins.

Urukalo has the job in front of him. The Valers are bottom of the ladder with one win, three draws and six losses from ten rounds.

His first match in charge will be against Bentleigh Greens on Monday, April 19.

With four clubs relegating this season, getting Westvale out of its present predicament is going to take some doing. But Urukalo said he's ready for the task.

"Any coach must be prepared to put his ability

on the line. It is part of the coaching position. We're last on the table and I realise this is not a good scenario. We've only won one game out of ten and the players' morale is down."

Urukalo said he's taken on the job because of his relationship with club backers Angelo and George Bouzis, whom he has known from his Heidelberg days.

The Bouzis name, through Vivianne's Collection, has been synonymous with Melbourne soccer, as sponsors of Heidelberg, the former Collingwood Warriors and also of reigning national champion South Melbourne.

"They asked me to do the job and it's better than sitting around doing

nothing," Urukalo, who just returned from a coaching stint in Cyprus, said.

"I told them I could do it until the end of July, when I'm going to the Middle East. I hope I'll be able to groom someone to take over by then," he said.

This would mean Urukalo would leave two rounds short of the season, which finishes with round 26 on August 15.

Stubbins offered to stay on as a player, but Urukalo declined.

"Don't get me wrong. I want it known that Phil has done a great job, raising the club from the lower leagues to the premier league. But the ball hasn't rolled for him in the VPL," he said.

Stubbins is the VPL's



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## ILLAWARRA CREDIT UNION BIG MATCH UPDATE

# Second half turn-around ignites Bulls

by Bruce Campbell

BALL'S Paddock maybe did not resemble the almost bowling green like surface that housed the action when Bulli met Port Kembla in last year's Illawarra Premier League.

But the flood damage of August 13 was enough to almost rip the heart out of the northern suburbs' club.

It didn't, and instead galvanised a fighting spirit which sees them sitting on top of the competition after two rounds with six goals scored for and none against.

Last season's meeting was a dour struggle with Bulli winning 3-2 - but it was also Port's last league defeat as they then cruised on to take runners-up position in the league, a Grand Final

spot and Bampton Cup success - against Bulli.

The year before Port had won, a win which saw the start of a downward spiral for Peter Begg's side which eventually cost them the league.

And last Saturday, or at least for forty five minutes of it, it looked like Port would be the Bulli's bogey side again.

In that first half they toyed with a Bulli side which looked content to defend in depth and attempt to counter on the break.

The Port Kembla midfield took immediate control and their right hand flank of Robaard, Polimenakos and Stanizzo was superb.

Time and time again Robaard started a move from his right back position carrying the ball over the half way line to

release either Stanizzo or Polimenakos.

At the other end Robaard was also there to put in tackles when needed although for the first half hour Port keeper Ben Harris didn't touch an angry ball.

On the stroke of the half hour mark Frank Barila smacked a vicious dipping shot off the Bulli cross bar which had Alan McLesih well beaten.

But just seconds later Harris had to get down well to a lively shot from Jerome Hudson which marked their first real attack of the game such was the Zebra's domination.

Ten minutes later Port Kembla's domination should have been rewarded when Barila and Stanizzo broke through in tandem.

At the end of a twenty

yard run, and drawing his marker, Barila released the ball for his team-mate but the shot went just past the post.

Then a brilliant through-ball from Matt Callahan, who will be a great buy for Port when he gets fully fit, found Barila on the far right and his cross was met by an Aaron O'Brien header which went just wide.

Just before half time the signal that things were about to change came inauspiciously enough; a Robaard corner was met with little enthusiasm and no penetration at one end - while at the other Harris was forced to get down superbly to keep the scores level.

The half time tea obviously had something in it because from the re-start Bulli looked like a different team - and so did Port Kembla.

"It was a game of two halves," said Bulli coach Peter Beggs afterwards.

"In the first we gave them too much ball and then when we did get it we played too many long balls.

"As a result it kept on coming back at us and we couldn't build anything."

One of the aces in the Bulli team is midfielder Greg Lerond.

In the opening forty five he found himself ripped to shreds by a raiding Robaard but in the second half he was one of the best players on the field.

Maybe that was the difference as Bulli started playing close possession football, linking four, five and six passes consistently together.

The opener came after five minutes of the second half.

A Hudson corner was met by the head of Chris Curtin and his copy-book downward stroke had enough zoom on it to



Bulli's Greg Lerond

beat Harris who had somehow managed to get a touch.

With another 18 minutes played substitute Adam Hammersley found himself with an area of space in the midfield.

He picked out Simon Bain on the far left side and Bain's pinpoint return switch was sidefooted into the net by Rod Patterson.

Two-nil, and both goals were the result of non-existent Port Kembla marking.

Hammersley had a part in the final goal as well; finding himself again without a marker he slotted it to Andrew Christie standing on the edge of the six yard box.

Christie, totally unmarked, just tapped it past a despairing Harris.

It could have been four or five in the end, luckily for Port Kembla it wasn't.

"We got what we

were trying hard to keep it all under control.

"There is a long way to go," he said.

"Port Kembla is still the best side in the league and I'm just glad that we got the points."

IN OTHER action Kemblawarra kept up their goal scoring feats by knocking three past Northern United.

The Corrimal side were in confident mood after upsetting league favourites Port Kembla the previous week but finally the conditions at a heavy Memorial Park took their toll.

Kemblawarra scored all three goals in the last 20 minutes.

And a bumper crowd of well over 1,000 saw Coniston beat Cringila at JJ Kelly Park.

Wollongong Olympic and Fernhill won their games with the White Eagles match not played.

photo by Denis Ivaneza Inner Visions

**BULLI 3 (Curtin, Patterson, Christie)**  
**PORT KEMBLA 0**  
Venue: Ball's Paddock  
Man of the Match: Chris Curtin BULLI



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## ILLAWARRA CREDIT UNION PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 3

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Crehan Park  
Coniston Lions v Northern United

JJ Kelly Park  
Port Kembla v Shoalhaven City

Wetherall Park  
Ferhill v Lysaghts

Towradgi Park  
Olympic v White Eagles

Brandon Park

Sunday 18 April

Kemblawarra v Bulli

Albert Butler Memorial Park



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**ACT BIG MATCH UPDATE**

# Weston surprise to go top in Canberra

by Nick Guoth

LAST weekend the regular season for all teams in the ACT kicked off with matches played on both Saturday and Sunday.

Canberra Deakin were given a wakeup call before their midweek cup clash with Burns Club when they went down to a well-organised Weston Creek side 1-0.

The Creek dominated throughout most of the match and if ace scorer Steve Lazarri had the right boots on the end result could have been somewhat of an embarrassment to Deakin.

Young Weston midfielder Yoshi Sato caused endless problems for his opponents and provided a solid link between the defenders and the striking partnership of Lazarri and Bradley Craven.

Yet it was the defence that laid the foundation of the

Solid as Gibraltar, Deakin were limited to rare chances through set plays.

Their no-holds barred tackling, although obtaining the ire of the referee on more than a few occasions, may have surprised the Deakin players.

Their delicate short passing game never really eventuated.

In the first half Zoran

Talevski was causing all the problems Deakin could muster and on a few occasions Hassan Adhami was needed to quell the chance.

Yet all the real possibilities of a breakthrough came at the other end.

A Yoshi cross found Lazarri but his header went the wrong side of the bar.

Late in the half, a bad pass from Deakin keeper Mate Batinic was easily intercepted by Lazarri.

Instead of turning and shooting, he took a rather less successful option.

In extra time Steve found himself one-on-one and on a slight angle yet his shot, with force, sailed wide.

The second half was somewhat lacklustre even after the goal had been scored.

Neither team could break through the opposing defences.

The one score came 10 minutes into the second stanza.

A free kick from Martin Lazarri went to the near post and a flick from Bradley Craven was enough to pass Batinic.

Weston Creek coach Jimmy Bland was pleased in how his team played.

He said: "We were the better side and created more chances."

"Defensively we were magnificent and we concen-

trated for 90 minutes.

"I told the boys to be patient and work hard and the results would come."

Ian Shaw on the other hand said: "I'm disappointed.

"There was a lack of commitment and desire."

Queanbeyan competed

Queanbeyan's tenacity throughout the first half.

For University, Dominic Bartone scored two, Steve Howie, Simon Foxhill and Dominic Susic nabbed one each and the other was an own goal.

Tony Giannasca in goal

Tony Lemezina came on in the second half and his presence sparked the Suns to play much better.

Midway through the period, they should have scored with any of three chances in a goal mouth scramble, but nothing would come to fruition for them.

The Capital City Suns would have been disappointed with the loss considering some of the chances they had.

Unlike the other games, this one was played in very good spirits with no cautions handed out.

NEW TO Division 1, Burns Club were shown that the run through the season will be a tough one as they went down 3-0 to Canberra Olympic.

Although battling hard throughout the game, it was always going to be an uphill struggle for the team.

The goals were scored by Pino Seminara, Njegosh Popovich and the final from substitute Marcello Fernandez after some good lead up work by Elliott Zwangobani.

Burns were actually unlucky not to lead after 10

quite well in the first period but lacked depth and the replacements weren't the calibre needed for this grade.

Their opponents played consistent throughout and Bartone, Howie and Nick Bear were singled out as the

Macarthur Rams WSL teams and Thursday was his first session for over 18 months.

Training was never one of Haysie's strong points but we think he will be a new man by season's end.

FIELDS United Sports Club is celebrating its twenty fifth birthday during 1999.

A number of events are being organised, culminating in the production of the club's Silver Jubilee magazine.

Information is now being sought from past and present committee members, players and anyone who has been associated with the Flyers since 1974.

Please forward any relevant information or photographs to:

Mary Perry, FUSC, PO Box 89, Glenfield, NSW 2167 or fax 9829 5424.

CAMPBELL TOWN PCYC Soccer Club will be holding their 20th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 19 June at the Campbelltown Tennis Club. Former players and officials are cordially invited to attend.

Cost is \$32 and enquiries and bookings can be made by contacting Gary Watkins on 4635 5876 or Malcolm Frame on 4626 2017.

FORMER Rams first grade keeper and captain David Hayes was looking a bit worse for wear last Thursday.

It appears Dave has

taken on the goalkeeper

coach duties for UWS

Plus ....



Steve Howie scored for Uni in rout of City

AT RIVERSIDE Stadium University of Canberra easily took care of Queanbeyan City, a side that looks to be the beating boys of the competition.

The scoreline of 6-1 reflected the game although much can be said about



best

BELCONNEN United started their defence of the Premier League title with a scrappy 1-0 win over Capital City Suns.

Suns were their own enemy when they gave too much ball away, especially in the midfield.

The goal came about when a free kick was floated into the box and Jason Dunn rose above all to head the ball over Tony Giannasca in goal.

Tony Lemezina came on in the second half and his presence sparked the Suns to play much better.

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Burns were actually unlucky not to lead after 10

minutes when a shot found the woodwork and not the net.

Following the early scare, Olympic set themselves and their sheer weight of possession meant that it was only a matter of time before the goals came.

Olympic showed very good composure on the ball and their defence was very solid.

The only problem was the rather flat and ordinary front line.

Alex Tsikos and Steve Vanzetti were singled out as two of the better players on the day.

AND GREG WELSH writes that the points were shared in the Italian derby.

A late goal to Gungahlin Juventus' striker Frank Barresi earned his side a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Monaro in Round 1 of the ACT Premier League at Jamison Oval on Sunday.

In a hotly-contested and sometimes spiteful clash, Monaro dominated in terms of possession and field position throughout, with Juventus relying on quick counter-attacking moves.

Both teams traded yellow cards in a scrappy first half of football, with neither side able to capitalise on a number of goal-scoring opportunities.

Juventus' forward George Cattanach was unlucky not to open the scoring in the 62nd minute when his powerful header rattled the crossbar.

The ball rebounded directly back to Cattanach but his second attempt strike was well saved by Monaro goalkeeper Tony Guarino.

The game seemed to be decided 16 minutes later when lively Monaro's striker Lazar Simeonov slotted the ball away from close range after Juventus' goalkeeper Elias Oukarne could only block Valerio Galeotti's powerful low drive.

But eight minutes from full-time Monaro were left hopelessly exposed at the back as an attacking raid broke down.

Cattanach collected the ball on the half-way line, surged forward and passed to a grateful Barresi who snared the equaliser.

Monaro coach Ian Heywood was left to rue his team's defensive lapse.

"We can score goals, we've proved that," he said.

"We'll score in every game we play."

"It's just a question of whether we can stop the opposition from scoring."

"To stop them from scoring you've got to be on the ball for 90 minutes, not 85 or 87 or 88 or 89."

Juventus' coach Billy Wilcox was happier with his side's performance.

"I thought we created more chances, clear-cut chances," he said.

"I thought we could have done ourselves a bit of justice by getting three goals."

"I think we came as underdogs and I think we showed we won't be that bad."

THE FEDERATION Cup quarter finals that were scheduled for last Monday afternoon were washed out.

The games will now be played this Wednesday and Thursday evenings at Greenway Oval with kickoffs set for 6pm and 8pm.

## Carlton join the Rangers

by Inside Soccer  
cadet writer  
LUKE BEAR

"WE give them access to our players if there is any talent here and we promote them as a club," said Narellan Rangers president Martin Burns of his role as a feeder club for NSL side Carlton.

Players are also still required for the Under 10 and Under 11 teams and enquiries can be made to Malcolm Frame.

MDSFA local competitions got under way last weekend with over 8,000 players participating in matches throughout the district.

MACATHUR Rams

Sportsman's Night and Player Auction held on 22 February was a huge success. Over \$20,000 was raised on the night and this will be used to fund club house extensions including a meeting room and larger office.

SYDNEY

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For further information contact the Manager ISA NSW on 9629 1800 or 0414 430 047

**ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: ERICSSON CUP ROUND 27**

# United's Day torments slack Cosmos

By Graham Cooke

**SYDNEY** United's Nathan Day put his early season problems behind him with two fine goals in his club's 4-1 Round 27 NSL win over Canberra Cosmos on Monday night.

It was a performance to delight coach David Mitchell.

"Nathan was our big signing this season," he said.

"He had some injury problems but now he's back and his scoring form in recent games has been great."

United's other star was veteran defender Velimir Kupresak who, besides anchoring the defence, got on the score sheet himself for the first time this season.

United got the start Mitchell had ordered when, with four minutes gone, Walter Ardone crossed from the right for a poorly marked Day to head past Vilson Knezevic.

The Cosmos might have made a quick reply when three minutes later Kupresak gave away a corner under pressure and Daniel Burt headed Doug Marcina's kick over the bar.

Both sides were making mistakes in midfield.

One misdirected pass gave Peter Buljan the chance for an equaliser but his hard low shot was not good enough to beat Mike Gibson in the United goal.

Sydney went 2-0 up in the 39th minute.

Jacob Burns was fouled

in front of goal about two metres outside the penalty area and, with the help of a deflection off the Cosmos wall, Day drilled a shot into the corner of the net.

If there was still some doubt as to the game's outcome at halftime, it vanished seven minutes after the interval.

Once again Day was involved, this time his corner kick being headed home by Kupresak.

The home side finally got onto the score sheet

when youngster Anthony Magnacca beat two players in the penalty area before stroking his shot home.

Substitute Ante Moric restored United's three goal lead with a strike in stoppage time.

Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni said his side had sunk back into the bad habits of earlier in the season.

"It was a sloppy, slack performance," he said.

**CANBERRA COSMOS 1 (Magnacca)**  
**SYDNEY UNITED 4 (Day 2, Kupresak, Moric)**  
Venue: Bruce Stadium  
Man of the Match: Nathan Day SUTD

**NEWCASTLE** Breakers moved to within three points of a top six play-off place when they scored a 3-1 victory over Wollongong Wolves in a re-scheduled match at Breakers Stadium last Wednesday.

The Wolves opened brightly and striker Esala Masi had two chances, dragging a shot wide and then having a header from five metres saved by keeper Bob Catlin.

Newcastle took the lead in the 28th minute when striker John Buonavoglia and then Mark Wilson set up midfielder Tom Haythornthwaite who hammered a half volley home from 20 metres.

Wolves striker Anthony Surjan missed a chance to level the score on 31 minutes, chipping over the bar from a close free kick after Catlin was penalised for picking up a back pass.

Scott Chipperfield also missed a chance when the ball got stuck between his legs but the Wolves finally pulled level in the 61st minute midfielde

Paul Reid chipped to the back post where Surjan was left unmarked for an easy header.

Buonavoglia quickly squandered an opportunity to restore the Breakers lead but moments later he was brought

down just outside the penalty area by David Huxley who was sent off by referee Brett Hugo.

A fierce free kick by captain Shane Pryce was stopped by the Wolves keeper but from a following corner Wilson

powered a fierce header home to give the Breakers the lead again.

The Wollongong back line defended strongly but five minutes from the end Buonavoglia raced on to a fine through ball from substitute Freddy Sterrey said.

**NEWCASTLE 3 (Haythornthwaite, Wilson, Buonavoglia)**  
**WOLLONGONG 1 (Surjan)**  
Venue: Breakers Stadium  
Man of the Match: Nathan Day SUTD

# Wolves squander chances



Bobby Catlin: made an important early save to set the Breakers up for a good win

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**ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: ERICSSON CUP ROUND 28**

# Strikers blow their last chance

**BRISBANE** Strikers' faint hope of a National Soccer League finals berth was finally extinguished in a 2-2 draw with Gippsland Falcons at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

The Strikers, who started the match four points outside the top six in eighth place, had to come from behind twice to share the points in a scrappy affair.

Gippsland, who is second bottom in the Ericsson Cup, again proved to be the Strikers' bogey side having won four out of their previous five clashes.

The Strikers were on top early but Gippsland weathered the barrage to take a surprise 1-0 lead in the 34th minute after midfielder Robbie Puca pounced on a loose ball before rifling a blistering shot into the top corner of the net.

The goal came against the run of play after the Strikers looked well in control but as has been their custom all season, they fell down in front of goal.

The Strikers had three

**BRISBANE STRIKERS 2** (Davidson, McLaren)  
**GIPPSLAND FALCONS 2** (Puca, Perinovic)  
Venue: Suncorp Stadium  
Man of the Match: Bojo Jevdjevic GIPS

chances in the opening 25 minutes to break the early deadlock with veteran forward Andy Harper playing a dominant role.

Gippsland's shock goal brought renewed life back into the home side's attack, firing in three chances in as many minutes in search of the equaliser.

However, good goalkeeping from Bojo Jevdjevic and some misunderstanding between Strikers frontmen Wayne Knipe and Harper enabled the visitor to cling to its lead until the home side finally drew level two minutes from the break.

Rookie defender Andrew Davidson, playing only his eleventh NSL game, notched a memorable first national league goal, nodding home a Nick Meredith cross.

The Strikers found themselves trailing again nine min-

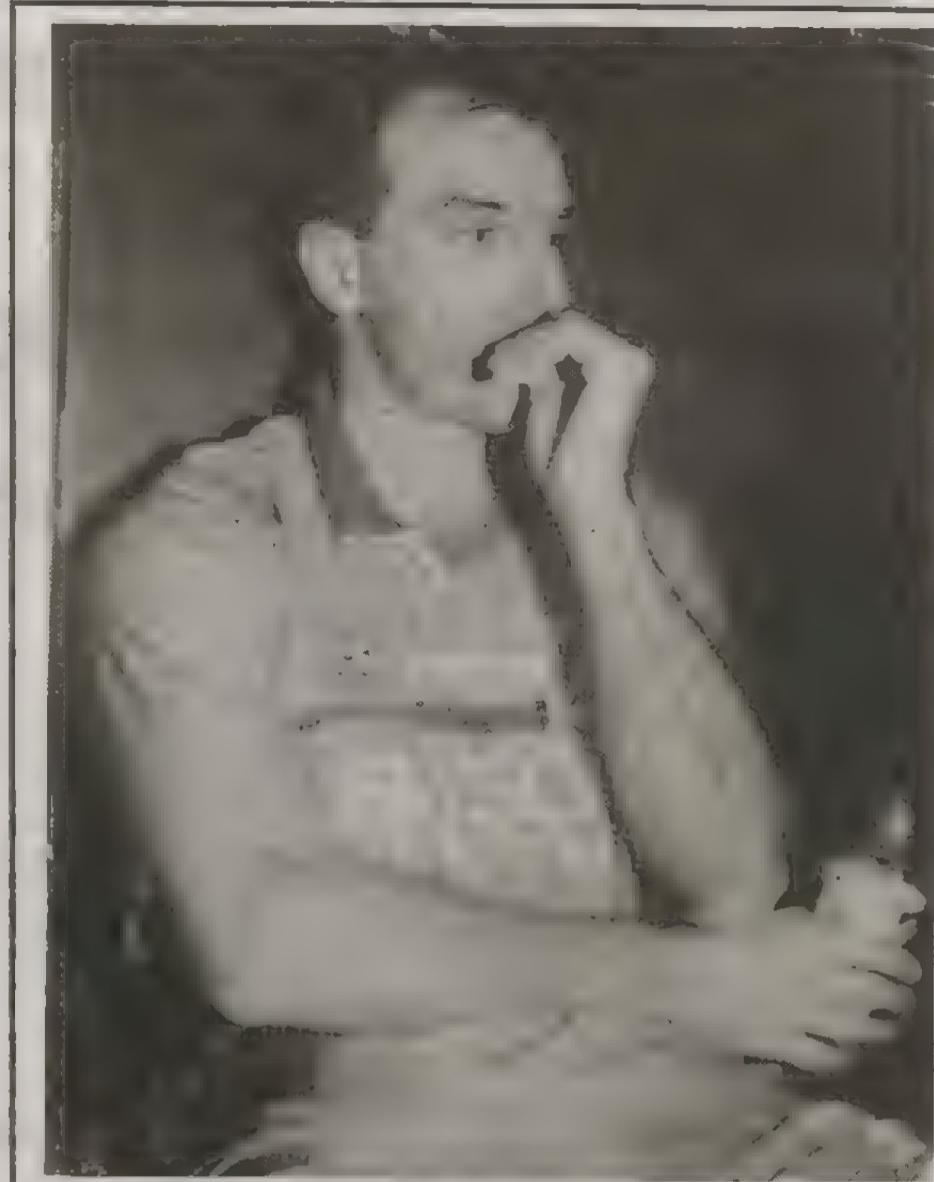
utes after the break when Gippsland striker Marko Perinovic found himself with space to head home a cross from midfielder Levent Osman.

The Strikers, who lost midfielder Jeremy Harris just after the break, came back for the second time in the match to draw level after a costly error in the Gippsland defence.

Strikers frontman Stu McLaren scored his fifth goal of the season pouncing on some sloppy defence from the visitor before slotting his equaliser past Jevdjevic.

McLaren had a chance to put the Strikers in front for the first time but his attempt from an acute angle in the 60th minute struck the side netting.

Gippsland striker Sash Becvinovski could have snatched victory with a header but was denied by Strikers keeper Clint Bolton.



Andy Harper: the veteran Brisbane forward couldn't get the winner his side to desperately needed

# When class just isn't enough

By Anthony Raineri

**NORTHERN** Spirit struggled to overcome lowly Adelaide Sharks 2-1 in their NSL clash at North Sydney Oval on Friday night despite securing the perfect start when former Tottenham midfielder Ian Crook scored inside the first minute.

The victory consolidated the Spirit's position in the Top Six.

All the goals were scored in the first half but the second session was even more exciting for the 15,000 crowd at North Sydney Oval as the play swung from one end of the field to the other.

Spirit captain Robbie Slater muffed a shot with only the keeper to beat in the second half while Sharks players cleared the ball off the line three times including right on full time.

Adelaide began disastrously when Crook scored after only 50 seconds.

Wingback Matthew Langdon linked with captain Robbie Slater whose cross was smartly left by Clayton Zane for Crook to finish off.

Matthew Bingley's foul on young Adelaide striker Elias Demourtzidis in the 28th minute proved costly for the Spirit.

Playmaker Corey Artone curled a 20 metre free-kick around the Spirit wall and into the back of the net.

Artone should have put his team ahead two minutes later but his low shot from 10m hit the base of the right post.

Spirit was fortunate to regain the lead in the 35th minute.

Former Marconi wingback Luke Casserley dribbled down the right flank, cut inside and took a firm but seemingly harmless shot at goal.

The ball took a wicked deflection off Sharks defender Paul Pezos and

landed in the goal much to the horror of keeper Nathan Wildy who had been wrong-footed.

Just before the break, a brilliant move by Spirit veterans Kresimir Marusic and Slater enabled Crook to have a cracking shot at goal, which skimmed the crossbar.

Tall striker Alex Castro had Adelaide's best chance to level in the second half.

His blast from inside the penalty box was tipped over the bar by rookie Spirit keeper Paul Henderson.

Adelaide coach Adrian Santarac said he thought his team deserved more.

"In between the goals in the first half we played some absolutely first class football," he said.

"We also had some good patches in the second half."

Northern Spirit player/coach Graham Arnold described his team's performance as gritty.

"The pressure got to some of the players tonight," he said.

"But at the end of the day winning the three points is a positive thing. We now have 45 points and so we should be safe to make the finals. But we have to improve."

## NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE



### Round 29: 16/18 April

#### Friday 16 April

Newcastle Breakers v Northern Spirit  
Breakers Stadium 8.00pm

Saturday 17 April

Marconi Fairfield v Adelaide City  
Marconi Stadium 7.00pm

#### Sunday 18 April

South Melbourne v Canberra Cosmos  
Bob Jane Stadium 6.00pm

Gippsland Falcons v Sydney United  
Falcons Park 6.00pm

Adelaide Sharks v Brisbane Strikers  
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.00pm

Sydney Olympic v Wollongong Wolves  
Belmore Sports Ground 6.30pm

Perth Glory v Melbourne Knights  
Perth Oval 4.00pm

#### Bye: Carlton

*NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs.*

ASF (02) 9380 6099, Adelaide City (08) 8336 9077, Adelaide Sharks (08) 8351 9866, Brisbane Strikers (07) 3252 5327, Carlton (03) 9389 6213, Canberra Cosmos (02) 6281 7981, Gippsland Falcons (03) 5134 5529, Marconi Fairfield (02) 9823 2222, Melbourne Knights (03) 9699 4188, Newcastle Breakers (02) 4951 2722, Northern Spirit (02) 9460 2187, Perth Glory (08) 9383 9911, South Melbourne (03) 9645 9797, Sydney Olympic (02) 9558 5355, Sydney United (02) 9823 6418, Wollongong City (02) 4226 3988

**ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: ERICSSON CUP ROUND 28**

# Destiny lost as Knights force their way back

by Bert van Bedaf

THE Knights put Sydney Olympic's finals chances under pressure by coming from behind to beat the Sydneysiders 2-1 with two second half goals at Sunshine on Sunday afternoon.

Olympic had two chances saved off the line and when in front should have secured a vital victory, instead taking a slide down the league ladder.

A disappointed Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina kept the dressing room closed for 25 minutes after the match berating his players for the costly loss.

"We had our destiny in

our hands, but we like to make it difficult for ourselves," Culina said.

"We are still in the Top Six but I was especially disappointed with our effort in the second half."

"You have to question how hungry some of the people are after you are a goal up."

"We played a very ordinary game, especially in the second half," he said.

In contrast Knights' coach Joe Biskic easily declared: "We deserved to win. We were confident even when we were a goal down. I told the players during the break not to concede another goal and to keep it tight at the back."

"We had the better of

the general play in the second half and scored two good goals."

Sydney Olympic were unlucky not to take the lead in the 10th minute, but league top-scorer Pablo Cardozo's header at the near post was headed off the line by Knights' defender Joe Rajher.

Olympic hit the target in the 24th minute when Mark Brennan put Chris Kalantzis through with a penetrating pass.

Brennan cleverly lobbed Knights' keeper Martin John to put Olympic a goal up.

The Knights nearly drew level in the 26th minute but striker Ivan Kelic aimed wide from

close range.

Rajher was called on again to head off the line in the 49th minute, this time a header by Ante Juric from a corner.

The Knights levelled in the 62nd minute after exercising concerted pressure in the second half.

Ice Kutlesovski struck the equaliser in a scramble, poking the ball into the net after it came off the left post.

Popular mid-fielder Tom Podeljak shot the Knights into the lead after 70 minutes with a great individual run from his own half.

Having picked up the ball from a defensive clearance, Podeljak ran the ball at the Olympic defence from just outside the centre circle into Olympic's half, slotting home the winner with a low shot in the left corner from 25 metres.

# Mori strike keeps City in title race

by Hannibal Rossi

**SOCEROO** striker Damjan Mori peaked up Adelaide City's finals hopes with an expertly taken free kick to sink Newcastle Breakers 1-0 on Sunday.

Mori won the free kick in the 30th minute and curled the ball around the defensive wall into the roof of the net to beat Breakers keeper Bob Catlin from 20 metres.

City attacked the Breakers from the outset with its Top Six spot in jeopardy and gave former Soceroo keeper Catlin a tough workout.

Carl Veart teed up mid-fielder Carlo Talladira to shoot just wide from the edge of the penalty area in the seventh minute before Newcastle striker John Buonavoglia almost made Jason Petkovic pay dearly for spilling a cross in the ninth minute at the other end.

Brad Hassell powered a header goalward from a corner in the 10th minute which Catlin turned over the crossbar with a flying parry.

Mori found space to pick out national Joey squad midfielder Louis Brain in

**ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Mori)**  
**NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0**

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium  
Match Referee: Robby Catlin NEWC

the penalty area in the 16th minute but Brain poked his shot wide with just Catlin to beat.

Speedy Buonavoglia was able to whip up some havoc in the City penalty area after a Newcastle corner in the 26th minute but had his shot blocked by Alex Tobin.

Mori finally unlocked the tight Breakers defence with a snaking run which earned the crucial free kick and he whipped in his 14th goal of the season for City's second win in the past nine matches.

The goal kept City in fifth spot, ahead of Sydney Olympic and Marconi on goal difference and in line for its 10th successive finals campaign. Catlin kept Newcastle in the game late in the first half with top saves from Mori and Hassell.

Mori charged into the penalty area in the 41st minute and Catlin managed to block his low shot before

producing an acrobatic dive to palm Hassell's fierce drive over the crossbar two minutes later.

Newcastle pushed forward more after the interval with their faint finals hopes slipping away.

Top scorer Buonavoglia sprayed an angled shot just wide in the 70th minute after a pass from substitute Chris Tancheski.

City got great service from defender Angelo Costanzo returning after a two match suspension to tighten its renowned defence which racked up its 11th clean sheet of the season.

Veart missed two golden chances in the latter stages as City caught Newcastle on the counter. He volleyed wide from six metres in the 77th minute with Catlin stranded and then beat the keeper with a low shot in the 81st minute only to see defender Todd McManus clear off the line.

**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2 (Kutlesovski, T Podeljak)**  
**SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Brennan)**  
Venue: Knights Park  
Man of the Match: Tom Podeljak MELK

# Carlton unearth new star - but Glory get the goodies

by Alan Clark

FREE entry for Carlton's last home game of the season, where the opposition was the much admired Perth Glory, was still insufficient to draw the Carlton faithful to their new Olympic Park home on Sunday.

A mere 2,887 made the trek to watch them go down for the 14th time this campaign in a 1-2 loss after Bobby Despotovski converted a controversial injury-time penalty.

Carlton's support must surely be a major issue for Carlton to address next season.

It's not as if Carlton found its supporter-base slipping away as a result of the club's terrible post-Christmas run - Carlton and its supporter-base remain strangers to one-another.

And in a year following Carlton's inaugural season's Grand Final appearance, a talented playing squad and a charismatic coach with a string of achievements as a player, there was much for the follower to look forward to.

But whereas last season produced a series of highs for the club, this season - and this year specifically - has been unfathomably depressing.

None more so than in taking nothing from a game against Perth in which Carlton showed at least equal endeavour and determination.

Compelled by circumstance into putting into effect the league's most extravagant youth policy, Carlton's youngsters mixed it effectively with their more highly fancied opponents to the extent Perth coach Bernd Stange said of his side: "It was a poor per-

formance. I think we can play much better.

"I was very angry at half-time.

"My team had thought it was easy (after going 1-0 up), everybody thought we could

play at 50 percent."

Despite this Stange could see the bigger picture following the win.

"Today we have a big moment in the history of Perth Glory - a three-year-old club is in the Finals for the first time.

"We have a lot of records this year: we have scored the most goals, we have the biggest crowds, and that's why today we are very happy.

"We needed one point to make (our place in the Finals) sure.

"It's good for us and Western Australia."

Perth had taken the lead

after Con Boutsianis had continued his torment of Carlton at this ground, following up his Grand Final goal for South Melbourne, with the opener after just eleven minutes.

The crowd-pleasing mid-

half after Joe Tricarico had raced onto a through ball, beating Glory goalkeeper Tony Franken to it and crashing into him at the same time.

"He played with an injury today," said Carlton coach

which started deep in their right-back position, moving the ball with deft one-touch passing to end up with Scott Miller's shot, diverted for a corner by the diving Dean Anastasiadis.

Carlton were worth at least a share of the spoils, and seemed to be well-placed to grab it all, deserving a penalty for a foul on David Cervinski at the corner of the penalty-area, but being awarded a free-kick at the apex instead.

And just as the crowd and the players seemed to reconcile themselves to an honourable draw, referee Matthew Breeze saw a Cervinski handball in his own penalty-area which escaped most other observers, bringing Despotovski to the spot from where he coolly netted the winner three minutes into stoppage time.

"It's the story of our season - we outplayed Perth today," said disappointed Carlton coach Eddie Krnecovic after the game.

"Perth came here today just looking for a point - they went away with three."

**CARLTON 1 (Martin)**  
**PERTH GLORY 2 (Boutsianis, Despotovski)**  
Venue: Olympic Stadium  
Man of the Match: Steve Martin CARL

*"Martin has a fantastic character - what a future he's got ahead of him"*

play at 50 percent."

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Perth had taken the lead

fielder moved onto a square ball played into his path from Robert Trajkovsky wide on the right, as Alistair Edwards and Despotovski made runs which drew Carlton's markers away.

Just before the half-hour Lupo Lapsansky's shot was blocked and ran for a corner which he took, aiming for Andrew Marth.

Marth's header was palmed on to the bar and away by Tony Franken.

One of Carlton's high-school fleet, Steve Martin joyfully equalised with a powerful left foot strike from an acute angle midway through the second

Eddie Krnecovic, speaking of Martin after the game.

"It shows you what a fantastic character the boy's got, and what a future he's got ahead of him.

"That's an example to everyone in the team about how the game should be played."

Martin may have seen an earlier goal attempt succeed after Tricarico had beaten Craig Deans, then set him free of Glory's offside trap with a flighted ball, but Martin's header went wide.

Glory played to their name sporadically during the game, the sweetest moment of all being a 68th minute move

**ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: ERICSSON CUP ROUND 28**

# Day header floats United to league top spot

By Ted Simmons

**STRIKER** Nathan Day was probably the most surprised player on the field when he scored the goal that gave Sydney United a 1-0 win over defending national soccer league champion South Melbourne in Sydney on Sunday afternoon.

Day floated a seemingly harmless header goalwards in the second

Postecoglou.

"The team hasn't done too well in Sydney this year and we've been played off the park."

"We set out to be first and that's now in the hands of others."

A disappointing crowd of just over 4,000 watched the match between the two top teams and once again the wisdom of live soccer action on ABC must be called

kept Petkovic on his toes.

"I thought we may have scored too early and we faced a lot of pressure in the second half," United coach David Mitchell said.

The premiership is now up to us and could lead to the championship, especially with our players returning next week from Nigeria."

South snapped out of their lethargy after the

**SYDNEY UNITED 1 (Day)**  
**SOUTH MELBOURNE 0**  
Venue: Edensor Park  
Man of the Match: David Barrett SUTD

minute at the United Sports Centre and it bounced between hesitating keeper Michael Petkovic and defender Robert Lipatori.

The victory, the first for United over South Melbourne since 1997, lifted the Sydney team level with South at the top of the table with 54 points.

United now have the chance to annex the league premiership as they have two matches remaining compared to one for South Melbourne.

"We were caught sleeping and you pay the price for conceding a goal in the opening minutes," said South coach Angie

into question.

United launched a first half barrage and then had to withstand a similar effort from South in the second session.

The match started explosively with United defender David Barrett, playing his 300th league game, flying down the right side in attack.

His first cross resulted in Day's goal and within the next few minutes further crosses resulted in unsuccessful shots by Steve Berry and Day.

United keeper Mike Gibson didn't get his first real touch of the ball until after one hour while a glut of corners

break and United were stretched until the final minutes to hold them at bay.

Successive shots were parried or cleared in a 20 minutes period from Michael Curcija, Vaughan Coveny, Paul Trimboli and David Clarkson with United defenders literally putting their bodies in front of the ball.

But the final chances again went to United as they found fresh energy through substitute Danny Townsend whose first shot scraped the post, Michael Santalab hit the cross bar and Jacob Burns forced Petkovic into a point blank save.



Jacob Burns: the win over South Melbourne sees United installed as favourites to win the league

Photo by Denis Ivaneza Inner Visions

# MALONEY SLAMS THREE IN THE STALLION STOMP

By Mike Driscoll

**SKIPPER** Brad Maloney scored a hat-trick in Marconi's vital 5-2 national soccer league victory over struggling Wollongong Wolves at Brandon Park on Sunday night.

Beginning the Ericsson Cup round in equal sixth spot with Adelaide City, the victory moved Marconi a step closer to the playoffs.

The visitors led 3-0

midway through the second half before Wollongong staged a brief comeback with goals from Sasho Dimoski and Anthony Surjan from the penalty spot.

But Maloney who put Marconi 2-0 up in the 25th minute scored two late goals to give Marconi a deserved win.

Marconi was ahead after just three minutes with Maloney the provider for Kris Trajanovski's tap-in goal.

The Wolves recovered to create a number of first half chances but as has been the story of their season were let down by poor finishing.

Marconi went 2-0 ahead on 25 minutes from only their second worthwhile attack of the game.

Maloney collected a pass from striker Francis Awaritefe to score with a bullet like left foot shot from 15 metres.

Robbie Hooker ap-

peared to have guaranteed an easy Marconi win with their third goal in the 58th minute.

But Dimoski (64th) and Surjan (76th) kept the home side in contention before Maloney scored in the 81st and 84th.

Despite the apparent ease of their victory, Marconi were not at their best but Wollongong's defending was atrocious.

Maloney was the obvious stand-out while winger, and former Wol-

longong star, Mike Smith was also a handful.

Dimoski played well for Wollongong and young midfielder Paul Reid and defender Robbie Stanton tried hard.

NEXT week Marconi face up to the first of a double pronged attack to

guarantee a Top Six spot. They face Adelaide City at Marconi Stadium in a game in which the loser is almost certain to finish the season with nought. Their final game is sure to be a blockbuster – particularly if they beat Adelaide.

Northern Spirit travel

**WOLLONGONG CITY 2 (Dimoski, Surjan)**

**MARCONI FAIRFIELD 5 (Maloney 3, Trajanovski, Hooker)**

Venue: Brandon Park

Man of the Match: Brad Maloney MARC

**SCOREBOARD**

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**Ram**  
**RAM SPORTS**
**ACT****ACTSF PREMIER LEAGUE DIVISION 1**

First Grade	
Capital City Suns 0	Belconnen United 1
Weston Creek 1	Canberra Deakin 0
Queanbeyan City 1	Uni of Canberra 6
Burns Club 0	Canberra Olympic 3
Juventus 1	Monaro 1
Under 23s	
Capital City Suns 4	Belconnen United 5
Weston Creek 3	Canberra Deakin 1
Queanbeyan City 1	Uni of Canberra 6
Burns Club 1	Canberra Olympic 1
Juventus 1	Monaro 3
Under 19s	
Capital City Suns 1	Belconnen United 7
Weston Creek 7	Canberra Deakin 2
Queanbeyan City 0	Uni of Canberra 2
Burns Club 3	Canberra Olympic 0
Juventus 4	Monaro 2

**ACTSF PREMIER LEAGUE DIVISION 2**

First Grade	O'Connor Knights 3
Tuggeranong 3	ANU 1
White Eagles 1	Belwest 2
Reserve Grade	
Canberra Sabres 0	O'Connor Knights 2
Tuggeranong 4	ANU 2
White Eagles 1	Belwest 4
STATE LEAGUE	
DIVISION 1	
Canberra City 1	ANU 1
Belconnen United 4	Burns Club 2
Uni of Canberra 7	ADFA 1
Southern Spirit 2	Ginninderra 6
DIVISION 2	
Canberra City 0	ANU 8
Belconnen United 1	Burns Club 1
Uni of Canberra 4	Belwest 1
Tuggeranong United 3	Ginninderra 4
DIVISION 3	
Harmonie 16	Tuggeranong United 1
ANU v Uni of Canberra-2 ppnd	
DIVISION 4	
Canberra City 0	Uni of Canberra-1 5
Harmonie 2	Burns Club 0
ADFA 0	ANU-2 11
ANU-1 4	Uni of Canberra 0
YOUTH LEAGUE	
Belwest 7	Southern Spirit 1
Radford College 0	Belsooth 3
Tuggeranong United 3	Belconnen United 2
MASTERS LEAGUE	
Uni of Canberra 3	ANU 2
Canberra City 6	Kambah Old Boys 2.

**ILLAWARRA****ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE****ROUND 2: 10 April**

First Grade	
Northern United 0	Kemblawarra 3
Coniston Lions 4	Cringila Lions 2
Bulli 3	Port Kembla 0
Shoalhaven City 0	Fernhill 1
Lysaghts 1	Wollongong Olympic 3
White Eagles v Woonona:	not played
Reserve Grade	
Northern United 3	Kemblawarra 2
Coniston Lions 1	Cringila Lions 2
Bulli 2	Port Kembla 0
Shoalhaven City 2	Fernhill 0
Lysaghts 0	Wollongong Olympic 5
White Eagles v Woonona:	not played
Youth Grade	
Northern United 2	Kemblawarra 1
Coniston Lions 0	Cringila Lions 0
Bulli 1	Port Kembla 3
Shoalhaven City 1	Fernhill 2
Lysaghts 3	Wollongong Olympic 0

**NEW SOUTH WALES****ERICSSON CUP 1998/99**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 South Melbourne	27	16	6	5	49	26	54
2 Sydney United	26	17	3	6	50	32	54
3 Perth Glory	26	15	4	7	56	33	49
4 Northern Spirit	26	14	3	9	35	33	45
5 Adelaide City	26	12	6	8	38	25	42
6 Sydney Olympic	26	12	6	8	44	33	42
7 Marconi Fairfield	26	13	3	10	51	47	42
8 Newcastle Breakers	26	10	6	10	26	31	36
9 Brisbane Strikers	26	10	6	10	38	44	36
10 Carlton	27	9	4	14	46	45	31
11 Wollongong City	26	8	6	12	40	47	30
12 Adelaide Sharks	26	7	6	13	34	41	27
13 Melbourne Knights	26	7	5	14	29	39	26
14 Gippsland Falcons	26	5	8	13	17	44	23
15 Canberra Cosmos	26	4	2	20	21	54	14

**NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Northern Division							
AIS	27	19	7	1	99	18	64
Sydney Olympic	26	19	3	4	85	28	60
Northern Spirit	26	18	2	6	63	22	56
NSWIS	27	17	3	7	68	29	54
Newcastle Breakers	25	16	5	4	57	26	53
Wollongong Wolves	25	16	2	7	77	27	50
Marconi Fairfield	25	15	5	5	71	21	50
QAS	25	14	2	9	69	40	44
Sydney United	26	10	4	12	50	48	34
Marconi Fairfield Colts	25	7	4	14	31	44	25
ACTAS	26	5	3	18	35	73	18
Northern Spirit Colts	26	4	3	19	23	96	15
Sydney Olympic Academy	26	3	5	18	26	98	14
Sydney United Colts	28	4	1	23	27	100	13
Wollongong Wolves Colts	25	1	3	21	15	127	6
Southern Division							
Carlton	22	15	4	3	62	26	49
South Melbourne	21	12	3	6	41	22	39
Melbourne Knights	22	9	3	10	44	44	30
VIS	17	8	5	4	33	27	29
Gippsland Falcons	21	8	3	10	35	34	27
Bulleen Inter Kings	19	7	3	9	26	34	24
Albury Wodonga	20	1	1	18	20	74	4

Liverpool City vs Trasandinos w/o

Rockdale 1

Penrith 3

Petrovski

Wright

Astone

o.g.

**DIVISION 4****ROUND 4: Easter Weekend**

Granville Greenisland v Eastern Creek (w/o)

Dulwich Hill 0

A C United 1

Holy Cross Ryde 2 Balmain 1

Hawkesbury City v CSI Schofields (w/o)

Illawarra Lions 2

Manly 2

Prairiewood United 2 United Eagles 0

White Valley 1 Springwood 0

Giometti

Rosenthal

Marrickville 3 Auburn Star 2

Antonopoulos

Pih

**ROUND 5: Easter Weekend**

Balmain 4 Granville Greenisland 1

CSI Schofields 3

Moorebank 2

Auburn 4

Prairiewood United 4 Hawkesbury City 4

Djuric 2

Ozcan

Eastern Creek Pioneers vs Auburn Star w/o

Hurstville 4

Beyhan 3

Marrickville 0 Nepean District 0

M Kladi 3

St George 2

Sydney Crescent Star vs Springwood w/o

Knithakis

Venender

United Eagles 0 White Valley 0

**DIVISION 5****ROUND 4: Easter Weekend**

Macquarie Sports v Sydney United Kings w/o

Fraser Park 3

Arcliffe 1

Kellyville Kolts 2 Sporting SCC 1

Mt Druitt 1

Uni of NSW 0

Kosciusko vs Macquarie Sports w/o

Brisbane Lions 1

Brisbane City 2

Lithgow Workmen 3 Homentmen 0

Bundaberg Waves 4

Toowoomba United 0

# SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



# RAM SPORTS

April 9/10  
First Grade  
St Albans 4  
Pawknar Blues 2  
Bentleigh Greens 2  
Altona East 1  
South Dandenong 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Port Melbourne	10	8	2	0	25	7	26
Green Gully	9	6	2	1	23	13	20
Preston Lions	10	6	0	4	22	13	18
Bentleigh	10	3	5	2	18	13	14
Bulleen	10	3	5	2	15	11	14
Melbourne	9	4	2	3	11	11	14
Altona Magic	10	4	1	5	17	26	13
South Dandenong	10	3	3	4	17	18	12
Fawkner Blues	10	3	2	5	14	15	11
St Albans	10	3	2	5	13	18	11
Altona East	10	3	2	5	11	17	11
Springvale	9	2	3	4	12	12	9
Sunshine	9	2	2	5	19	8	
Westvale	10	1	3	6	11	25	6

Reserve Grade  
St Albans 0  
Fawkner Blues 6  
Bentleigh Greens 2  
Altona East 1  
South Dandenong 1

## STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

First Grade  
Northcote City 1  
Lalor United 2  
Oakleigh 0  
Springvale City 1  
Melbourne City 2  
North Geelong 2  
Richmond 2

Western Suburbs 2  
Westgate 0  
Yarraville Glory 2  
Heidelberg United 3  
Doncaster Rovers 1  
Werribee City 1  
Kingston City 33

Second Grade  
Northcote City 0  
Lalor United 3  
Oakleigh 2  
Springvale City 1  
Melbourne City 2  
North Geelong 5  
Richmond 0

Western Suburbs 7  
Westgate 0  
Yarraville Glory 0  
Heidelberg United 2  
Doncaster Rovers 2  
Werribee City 0  
Kingston City 6

## STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

East Richmond 1  
Satellite City 1  
Essendon 5  
Frankston Pines 6  
Thomastown R 2  
Knox City 1  
Ringwood City 1

Geelong 1  
Croydon City 0  
Frankston 0  
Altona City 0  
Diamond alley 0

## STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3

Laverton Park 1  
Banyule 1  
North Coburg 0  
Mooroolbark 0  
Bell Park 0  
Broadmeadows 0  
Fitzroy City 1

Stomington City 2  
Moreland City 3  
South Springvale 0  
Williamstown 3  
South Wantirna 2  
Kelior Park 1  
Pascoe Vale 1

## WEST AUSTRALIA

## SOCCER WEST COAST

PREMIER LEAGUE: April 10

## First Grade

Joondalup 1  
Cockburn City 2  
Inglewood Falcons 2  
Ashfield Bunbury 3  
Western Knights 3  
Sorrento 2

Bayswater City 3  
Kingsway Olympic 3  
Fremantle City 3  
Floreat Athena 5  
Stirling Lions 1  
Perth SC 3

Reserve Grade  
Joondalup 0  
Cockburn City 0  
Inglewood Falcons 1  
Ashfield Bunbury 5  
Western Knights 4  
Sorrento 2

Bayswater City 11  
Kingsway Olympic 0  
Fremantle City 3  
Floreat Athena 3  
Stirling Lions 1  
Perth SC 2

Under 18s

Joondalup 2  
Cockburn City 1  
Inglewood Falcons 5  
Ashfield Bunbury 3  
Western Knights 5  
Sorrento 1

Bayswater City 5  
Kingsway Olympic 2  
Fremantle City 0  
Floreat Athena 0  
Stirling Lions 0  
Perth SC 6

DIVISION 1: 10 April

First Grade  
Altona Magic 2  
Westvale 1  
Bulleen Inter Kings 2  
Port Melbourne 2  
Preston Lions 3

P W D L F A Pt  
10 8 2 0 25 7 26  
9 6 2 1 23 13 20  
10 6 0 4 22 13 18  
10 3 5 2 18 13 14  
10 3 5 2 15 11 14  
9 4 2 3 11 11 14  
10 4 1 5 17 26 13  
10 3 3 4 17 18 12  
10 3 2 5 14 15 11  
10 3 2 5 13 18 11  
10 3 2 5 11 17 11  
9 2 3 4 12 12 9  
9 2 2 5 19 8  
10 1 3 6 11 25 6

Reserve Grade  
Altona Magic 3  
Westvale 1  
Bulleen Inter Kings 1  
Port Melbourne 2  
Preston Lions 3

ACTAS 3  
Sydney United 4  
ROUND 27  
Northern Spirit 9  
QAS 3  
AIS 9  
Sydney United 4  
Wollongong 3  
Newcastle 2  
Sydney Olympic 2  
ROUND 29  
NSWIS 3

Southern Division  
ROUND 28  
South Melbourne 8  
Carlton 3

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE ROUND 28  
April 9/11

Northern Spirit 2  
Crook 1  
Cassarly 34  
Venue: North Sydney Oval  
Crowd: 15,246  
Referee: M Shield  
Cautions: I Crook (NS) 73; K Marusic (NS) 80

Sydney United 1  
Day 2  
Venue: Edensor Park  
Crowd: 4,321  
Referee: E Lennie  
Cautions: G Burns (SU) 47; Goutzioulis (SM) 74;

Brisbane Strikers 2  
Davidson 43  
McLaren 57  
Venue: Suncorp Stadium  
Crowd: 2,984  
Referee: G Conolly  
Cautions: M Gotis (GF) 39; R Puca (GF) 87; M Bell (BS) 88; L Osman (GF) 89

Melbourne Knights 2  
Kutlesovski 62  
Pondeljak 70  
Venue: Knights Stadium  
Crowd: 2,128  
Referee: J Blaney  
Cautions: A Juric (SO) 25; R Banini (MK) 57;

Carlton 1  
Martin 71  
Venue: Olympic Park  
Crowd: 2,887  
Referee: M Breeze  
Cautions: M Stergiopoulos (CS); S Douglas (CS); R Trajkovski (PG) 50; G Ciriati (PG) 53

Adelaide City 1

Newcastle Breakers 0

Armadale 1  
Dinaella 1  
Bassendean 2  
Leeming Strikers 3  
Queens Park 1  
Rockingham City 1

Rserve Grade  
Perth City 6  
Balcatta 2  
Bassendean 3  
Leeming Strikers  
Queens Park 3  
Rockingham City 2

Under 18s  
Perth City 0  
Balcatta 2  
Bassendean 0  
Leeming Strikers 1  
Queens Park 1  
Rockingham City 1

ACTAS 3  
Armadale 0  
Dinaella 2  
Waneroo City 2  
Southside United 0  
Stirling Suns 1  
Swan IC 3

Sydney United Colts 1

## NATIONAL YOUTH

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE:  
Northern Division:

ROUND 27

Sydney United 4

ROUND 28

Northern Spirit 9

QAS 3

AIS 9

Sydney United 4

Wollongong 3

Newcastle 2

Sydney Olympic 2

ROUND 29

NSWIS 3

Marconi Fairfield 5  
Trajanovski 3  
Maloney 26, 80, 83  
Hooker 56

Venue: Brandon Park  
Crowd: 2,834  
Referee: P Mur  
Cautions: B Farah (MF) 74; B Renaud (MF) 75; D Langan (WW) 86

Mori 31  
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium  
Crowd: 3,639  
Referee: C Diomis  
Cautions: nil

Wollongong Wolves 2  
Dimoski 63  
Surjan pen 75  
Venue: Brandon Park  
Crowd: 2,834  
Referee: P Mur  
Cautions: B Farah (MF) 74; B Renaud (MF) 75; D Langan (WW) 86

## Leading Ericsson Cup Scorers

- 2 Saso DIMOSKI (WOLL)
- 2 Brett EMERTON (SOLY)
- 2 Will HASTIE (GIPS)
- 2 Tommy HAYTHORNTHWAITE (NEWC)
- 2 Chay HEWS (BRIS)
- 2 Ante JURIC (SOLY)
- 2 Dongi Ki KIM (ADLC)
- 2 Pan KIM (MARC)
- 2 Wayne KNIFE (BRIS)
- 2 Andrew MARTH (CARL)
- 2 Esala MASI (WOLL)
- 2 Nick MEREDITH (BRIS)
- 2 Nick ORLIC (SMEL)
- 2 Marko PERINOVIC (GIPS)
- 2 Jason POLAK (SMEL)
- 2 Tom PONDELJAK (MELK)
- 2 Paul REID (WOLL)
- 2 Mark RUDAN (SPRT)
- 2 Michael SANTALAB (SUTD)
- 2 Mike SMITH (MARC)
- 2 Dino TERMINELLO (ADLC)
- 2 Hamilton THORPE (ADSH)
- 2 Alex TOBIN (ADLC)
- 2 Danny VIDAKOVIC (ADSH)
- 2 Andy VLAHOS (CARL)
- 2 Kasey WEHRMAN (BRIS)
- 2 Mark WILSON (NEWC)
- 2 Chris ZORICICH (BRIS)
- 1 Richie ALAGICH (ADSH)
- 1 Ransford BANINI (MELK)
- 1 Sasho BECVINOVSKI (GIPS)
- 1 Clayton BELL (GIPS)
- 1 Matt BELL (BRIS)
- 1 Peter BENNETT (SUTD)
- 1 Matt BINGLEY (SPRT)
- 1 Louis BRAIN (ADLC)
- 1 Vinko BULJUBASIC (PRTH)
- 1 Joe CALETA (SUTD)
- 1 Luke CASSERLY (SPRT)
- 1 Alex CASTRO (ADSH)
- 1 Alvin CECCOLI (WOLL)
- 1 Adrian CERVINSKI (SOLY)
- 1 Giancarlo CIRCATI (PRTH)
- 1 David CLARKON (SMEL)
- 1 Jason CULINA (SOLY)
- 1 Michael CUNICO (SPRT)
- 1 A DAVIDSON (BRIS)
- 1 Elias DEMOURTZIDIS (ADSH)
- 1 Steve EAGLETON (UTD)
- 1 Robbie ENES (SPRT)
- 1 Andy HARPER (BRIS)
- 1 Danny HAY (PRTH)
- 1 Robbie HOOKER (MARC)
- 1 Karl HROVJE (MELK)
- 1 Harry JAMES (NEWC)
- 1 Ivo de JESUS (CANB)
- 1 Alex JOSIFOVSKI (CARL)
- 1 teve KARAVATAKIS (WOLL)
- 1 Hrovje KARL (MELK)
- 1 Alex KIRATZOGLOU (MELK)
- 1 Leo LANGONE (CANB)
- 1 Dominic LONGO (MARC)
- 1 Darren McDONALD (MARC)
- 1 Paul MAGDIC (MELK)
- 1 Anthony MAGNACCA (CANB)
- 1 Doug MARCINA (CANB)
- 1 Robbie MARKOVAC (CARL)
- 1 Steve MARTIN (CARL)
- 1 Scott MILLER (PRTH)
- 1 Branko MILOSEVIC (ADSH)
- 1 David MITCHELL (SUTD)
- 1 Gareth NAVEN (PRTH)
- 1 Jade NORTH (BRIS)
- 1 Steve PANOPoulos SMEL
- 1 Marcus PHILLIPS (MARC)
- 1 Richard PLESA (SUTD)
- 1 Adem PORIC (SPRT)
- 1 Ricahrd PUCA (GIPS)
- 1 Gerard QUENNET (WOLL)
- 1 Joe RAHJER (MELK)
- 1 Michael REDA (WOLL)
- 1 Kosta SALAPASIDIS (WOLL)
- 1 Robert SHANNON (NEWC)
- 1 Marcus STERGIOPoulos (CARL)
- 1 Noel SPENCER (WOLL)
- 1 Paul STRUDWICK (PRTH)
- 1 Danny TOWNSEND (SUTD)
- 1 Peter TSEKENIS (SOLY)
- 1 Jim TSEKENIS (SMEL)
- 1 Joe VRKIC (SUTD)
- 1 Brad WIECZOREK (NEWC)
- 1 Mark YATES (ADLC)

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